



# 78% Think! Gillard is playing NDIS games

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Nearly 78% of respondents to the Disability Speaks online survey have serious concerns over Gillard's commitment to National Disability Insurance.

For decades the disability sector has been burned by politicians promising the world and delivering little. There is no shortage of cynics in the disability sector who from comments made have seen it all before.

The announcement yesterday that Jennifer Macklin has been appointed Minister for Disability Reform will do nothing to change the jaundiced view that so many in the disability sector have of Gillard's "long term" commitment to implementing a National Disability Insurance scheme.

Macklin had full Cabinet responsibility for Disability under her previous portfolio of "Families, Housing and Community services" assisted by Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Jan McLucas (a non cabinet position) Adding another title to her portfolio changes nothing ( including the McLucas help) but will reinforce to many that Gillard believes word games are more important than real action

Gillard has yet to explain why

- despite the Productivity Commission report demanding the immediate injection of immediate crisis funding no such funds have been provided,
- no definite starting date for NDIS has been set,

- why NDIS is being slow played with the suggestion of 2019 commencement when other projects like Carbon Tax, National Broadband Networks and Mining Tax can be fully implemented within 12-24 months,
- How she intends to fund the \$6.5 billion dollars per annum recurrent this scheme requires which remains a massive problem.

Erin a regular blogger on the Physical Disability Council site in an edited response to DS said summarised it passionately "I think that an NDIS would be welcomed by the disability community only if crisis funding is provided NOW to cover the back log of equipment and services, accommodation and everything else people with disabilities need to live independently. I have been waiting 21/2 years for a customised wheelchair and I hope that NO one has to go through what I have been through just to get this far.

In terms of services I'm not sure how anyone is supposed to only have 2 showers a week. I am only young and my husband is nowhere near retirement age but I would hate it, if my condition deteriorates further for him to have to give up his day job to be my full time carer simply because the government won't help. They seem to think that people with disabilities don't want a life. I truly hope the NDIS does what should have been done years ago"

We thank Erin for the comments

Disability Speaks is demanding Gillard starts delivering on NDIS.

There is no reason other than political motive for the disability community to continue to be treated so poorly by the federal government.

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