



# “NDIS is in the bin?”

And NDIS 2 is coming who knows when?

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*Julia Gillard has a bit on her plate this week*

*But when the dust settles next week NDIS will still be a major unresolved issue*

*Julia Gillard’s refusal last week to commit funding for NDIS in the May budget and the subsequent collapse of NDIS planning talks should come as no surprise. It is timely and good the Liberal States have called her bluff and demanded she put money up now. The time for increased funding including urgent crisis funding as recommended by the Productivity Commission is already well over due. Shadow Disability spokesperson, Mitch Fifield’s attached comments add further clarity.*

*There is little doubt that NDIS is being talked up by the Prime Minister but any additional funding remains unresolved but even more importantly at the same time many will not understand Gillard has effectively binned the original Australian Productivity Commission Report and her new NDIS Department quaintly called the National Disability Agency (funded with \$10.5 million) is about to begin writing a new NDIS 2 program.*

*What services will be provided, who will be eligible and what form such services will take under the new NDIS 2 format that is now being worked up may or may not have little or any similarity to the original productivity report recommendations. Design of NDIS, gateway of entry to the scheme, eligibility, service offers and system delivery are all on the new agenda for the National Disability Agency and eventually Federal Government and COAG ratification. By how many will the 400,000 people identified in the productivity commission report be pruned by NDA?*

*So far at COAG the states have only agreed there is a disability problem and they did not agree to implement the productivity Commission Report which is different to the public picture being painted by Gillard and Abbott.*

***We all know if the Federal Government committed \$2 billion each year for the next 3 years for crisis relief funding in the 2012 May budget the new accommodation and respite houses such funds would open could be rushed through by the states and would sustain services for decades.***

***The NDIS 2 program does not have to be delivered before the emergency funding.***

***NDIS 1 is now effectively dead, what NDIS 2 will look like no-one knows and the Prime Minister who will eventually deliver it? Your guess is as good as ours.***

**David Holst**

Chair - Disability Speaks Steering Committee & Intellectual Disability Association of S.A (IDASA)

Mob. 0418 555 683

Web. [www.disabilityspeaks.com.au](http://www.disabilityspeaks.com.au)

Email. [disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net](mailto:disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net)



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