



“Who is listening?”

MEDIA RELEASE: March 21st, 2013

We love feedback we get from Disability Speaks releases. After every mail out we normally get between 5-15 responses. We always hope some on is reading our stuff and is listening and we respect all views (even from people who don't get it!).

Our “ **Disingenuous Tony Abbott February 6th** ” release certainly prompted more than average feedback.

We know our blogs are nationally circulated (and strongly encourage you to keep doing so) and read by many key players in both SA and Federal politics. The answer to the national disability crisis rests with politicians and we are planning to make as much noise as possible in the lead up to the September 14th Federal Election. We need a government that is really committed to NDIS!

February 6th feedback included

“Cheers on your Feb media 6th 2012 release. Well worded” & “Disingenuous Abbott? Are you kidding??? Why don't you keep your cheap Labor sympathies to yourself next time” & “Although I agree with you sentiment in relation to NDIS issues I do think you are extremely rude in referring to Mr. Abbott but denigrating our Prime Minister as Gillard and not Ms. Gillard. How can you expect a respectful decision for all us with a disability if you are disrespectful”

So some liked it, some thought we were biased against the Liberals and some thought we were anti Labor?

And that's just the way we intend to stay, pushing the debate to make a difference!!

Did Mr. Abbott read our comments?

We don't know, but the eloquent commentary by wingman Christopher Pyne in parliament last week does seem to have a ring of the Liberal NDIS imprimatur about it. The link below is worth listening too, but be warned, it goes 12 minutes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLutrxJiWP0&feature=youtu.be>

The sobering reality about NDIS remains unchanged despite legislative progression this week. Reality is NDIS

- Is unfunded
- Eligibility is unknown
- Level of service is unknown

And the draft rules do not give wide ranging choice and flexibility to consumers (more about that next week!)

Other February 6th respondents seemed to get the point and we think reflect the broader disability community view

"Let's be realistic – there is not going to be any money for the NDIS. Abbott knows that.

The Gillard government believes it can afford to continue with the unfunded promise of an NDIS. If they win the election it because of it then it will become another broken promise. If they lose then they can blame the Coalition. It is a win-win situation for them and a lose-lose for the Coalition".

"The suggestion re Medicare taking on NDIS is great as they already have the infrastructure and the trained personnel to tackle most issues and it would simply make Medicare a bit larger rather than creating a whole new bureaucracy starting from scratch which would require larger personnel with higher cost. Making it a subsidiary of Medicare would also make raising the revenue somewhat justifiable to raise Medicare levy".

"Why, if Julia has not had the ticker to come clean and answer the questions you have put, is not your article headed 'DISINGENUOUS JULIA and ABBOTT? I am not a political creature, although I am a person confined to a wheelchair and I have no interest in the politics of the NDIS – I am over 65 and find the whole age discrimination situation disgusting. I have always maintained that whoever is in Government, nothing will ever come of this, the trials are just being undertaken to keep the disability community on side with the present government!"

"I have always asked – why could not the NDIS be brought in as a department of Medicare – the administration is all set up, we all have Medicare cards which identify us, and Medicare has details of everybody, and whether they receive a disability pension or not. It should be simple to initiate a data bank of those who would be eligible for the additional assistance that the NDIS is purported to be going to give this section of the population. The system would need more Medicare personnel and money put into the scheme, and perhaps an over-riding appeal system to decide any cases as to whether a person is eligible to access the 'goodies' which will be available through what I would call 'The NDIS section of Medicare"

Please keep your comments coming, and don't lose sight of reality. At this stage NDIS little more than a figment of the imagination of our political leaders and a long way from providing the desperately needed support Australians with disability need.

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