



Trashing the Trash Talk Don't waste your vote!

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The next Federal Parliament will run for about 3 years from September 7th to late 2016 probably?

How will you vote and what do you expect in the disability world in this time?

Three more years of disability crisis will destroy many lives and little additional crisis service funding has been projected by the Federal Government despite the strong recommendation of the Productivity Commission in 2011 that it was essential. (Blame Julia?)

There is a pre-election avalanche of rumour and mudslinging, much of it seemingly driven by perception of personalities on how to vote..... but don't we all really want what's best for people with disability? Disability is the only policy platform that engages me personally?

Should we not be making decisions based on the best possible outcomes? Highly intelligent advocates and families are driving commentary based on emotional and at times quite ridiculous hyperbole. Personal endorsements, some laughable abound. Many politicians have come late to the disability campaign for personal benefit.

This cut and paste below shows what the Federal government is going to contribute to fix the crisis in Disability support in SA **in the next 3 years** and an explanation from Disability SA on why? There is little surprise the Federal Liberal Party has agreed to full support? From the financial year just finished the Federal Govt contribution to SA will rise a meagre 4% per annum barely covering inflation. I don't think there is any doubt that both Federal parties will be angling / praying for a better financial circumstances as they lead into the long distant 2016 election? Promises made before the 2013 election will be superseded in 2016. What is allegedly set in stone now will be open for realignment in 2016. We assume other states would have similar bleak immediate prospects (but have not checked the numbers)

Federal Contribution to Disability support services, SA

2012-13	\$109.2m	Final year Rudd/Gillard/Rudd era
.....		
2013-14	\$ 99.2m	The next Parliament era?
2014-15	\$112.0m	
2015-16	\$123.2m	
.....		
2016-17	tbc	The who knows/ what and when era??
2017-18	tbc	
2018-19	\$765.0m	

DSA explained as follows "With respect to 2016-17 and 2017-18, these are the transition years when we expand from the NDIS launch group to the full scheme. SA Treasury has advised that specific figures for these two years are not currently available as the rate of transition over this period has yet to be agreed. A decision on this will not be made until we have some learning from the launch. South Australia has agreed with the Commonwealth to settle the transition arrangements by December 2014 (consistent with other states). The dip in Commonwealth funding in 2013-14 can be explained by the Commonwealth's decision some time ago to move to per capita NDA funding of the States and Territories. As South Australia was previously receiving Commonwealth funding in excess of its per capita share, the move to per capita funding resulted in a reduction in Commonwealth NDA funding to South Australia. The impact was phased in over 5 years with 2013-14 being the final year. (edited from email from Disability SA, June 2013)"

Disability Speaks has previously distributed a SA summary Disability financial forecast over 6 years showing our SA Government planned contribution combined with promised Federal money. (See chart below again).

Meanwhile there is virtually daily commentary, both public and privately (and in many high level government offices?) that the cost of NDIS will be significantly higher than announced/agreed and we at Disability Speaks alarmingly believe big NDIS cost blow outs to be absolutely inevitable.

The attached letter to the editor from Mondays Financial Review reinforces concerns particularly as some people like the author seemingly still think NDIS is questionable.. Big Big money being available is absolutely necessary in 2016 and at electoral stake now! That's what we are voting for on September 7th. Unlike the Federal Government funding our state government funding is in the forward estimates and fiscally assured (thank goodness). The NDIS 0.5% tax levy will barely fund 30% of the Federal Governments contribution and do nothing to help states meet their contracted commitments.

The importance of a very strong financial environment where these disability related commitments can be met in 2016 are engaging. This yet to be decided ramp up in agreed funding is massive past 2016 although lacking detail as signed but how will NDIS be affected when the costs inevitably blow out?

Having personally voted for Rudd in 2007 and Julia in 2010 (sorry John Howard a \$600 once off carers payment did not win me) I have very mixed feelings about what's happened politically since. That said

We firmly believe both leaders will keep their promise and support the current NDIS as announced..... But what happens when the dollars don't stack up?? That is the primary thought occupying our minds now.

Like it has been for decades in the disability sector with insufficient cash, little will happen and this is the clarity of vision we seek as we prepare to vote next week!

Table 3.21 page 67 2013-2014 SA Budget Statement Chapter 3 revenue	2012 - 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019
SA Disability Revenue (1)	345	388	411	449	489	531	575
2013-2014 SA Budget Measures	10	19	27	25	27	28	28
Other SA NDIS Expenditure (2)	105	102	103	109	112	116	120
Total SA State NDIS Funding	460	509	540	582	628	675	723
Federal Contribution to NDIS	109	99	112	123	#(3)	#	765

Federal Medicare Levy (6)				6	13	14	70
Total for Disability Expenditure in SA services	569	608	652	711	?	?	1558

- (1) Disability expenditure includes NDIS SA launch contribution funding of \$5.0 million in 2013-2014, \$21.0 million in 2014-2015 and \$34.0 million in 2015-2016
- (2) Includes basic community care (DCSI), psychiatric disability (DHA) and transport services (DECD) and DPTI)
- (3) # With respect to 2016-17 and 2017-18, these are the transition years when there is an expansion from the NDIS launch group to the full scheme. SA Treasury has advised that specific figures for these two years are not currently available as the rate of transition over this period has yet to be agreed. A decision on this will not be made until they have learning from the launch. South Australia has agreed with the Commonwealth to settle the transition arrangements by December 2014 (consistent with other states).

It is interesting to note DisabilityCare levy will begin collection in 2014-2015 well before the states see any significant funding

- (4) The dip in Commonwealth funding in 2013-14 can be explained by the Commonwealth's decision some time ago to move to per capita NDA funding of the States and Territories. As South Australia was previously receiving Commonwealth funding in excess of its per capita share, the move to per capita funding resulted in a reduction in Commonwealth NDA funding to South Australia. The impact was phased in over 5 years with 2013-14 being the final year.
- (5) This represents a budget benefit and will partially offset the states required NDIS contribution

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