



# Stealth or Deceit?

## NDIS now officially at risk

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The current impasse between the SA Government and the Federal government over funding for the next stage of the SA rollout of the NDIS trial is deeply disturbing.

The confirmed reports in today's SA press (attached) will shock many who need NDIS delivered on time and with adequate support.

There will be a cohort of parents of children aged 5-13 who are waiting desperately for July 1st so their children are eligible for NDIS assessment and desperately needed support.

Tony Abbott needs to immediately guarantee that the written and moral fabric of NDIS will be protected and treated as a priority and these children will receive the support they are now entitled to.

With 7,200 additional SA children aged 5-13 due to become eligible for NDIS services from July 1st for the federal government to attempt to walk away from the NDIS agreement and not provide full financial coverage is deeply disturbing.

The NDIS program must now be seen as officially at risk both in the short and long term.

In the SA / Federal NDIS agreement this is the federal governments legal obligation of that there is absolutely no doubt.

Worse still the federal government's attempt to rewrite the agreement will be seen by the sector, as it should be, as a federal government that is increasingly looking not fully committed to genuine NDIS delivery and which does not have the decency or political ticker to say so but rather is prepared by bluff, bluster, blackmail or use deceit to water down NDIS

In doing so the over 400,000 Australians who are desperate for NDIS to start will increasingly despair that politics and financial bickering is risking their future.

Disability Speaks believed, following the Federal Budget, that while no announcement was made around NDIS; that NDIS remained a future target and that the federal government was being devious and deceitful in the scope and announcements it was making.

Online and media reports overwhelmingly suggest that NDIS service caps, pricing and internal cost controls, eligibility re-structuring and speed of rollout are delivering to the disability sector a watered down or hallucinatory version of NDIS that avoids the federal government of the need of actually telling the truth about NDIS.

Today is the day for the federal government to reinforce the commitment that NDIS is real and it will be delivered on time and with the service levels required to support people with disability.

As a first step the children of SA must be guaranteed the services they require and are due to receive.

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