



The Good, The Bad & The Ugly!

"Budget creates unfilled vacancies in disability accommodation?"

MEDIA RELEASE: May 13th, 2015

The 2015 Federal Budget has been positively received. But in amongst the creating jobs and small business focus and other targeted initiative what does it mean for people with disability in SA. As is always the case what is said by politicians may not be what is delivered

This budget is a massive lost opportunity for the Disability sector !!

THE GOOD

The Treasurer committed \$695 million to NDIS for the next financial year, in line with the Government's commitment to continue the trial sites and to prepare for the full rollout of the Scheme from July 2016. Honouring this election commitment is to be commended. The media release by Mitch Fifield is below

<http://mitchfifield.dss.gov.au/media-releases/2entitynode5-budget-to-support-ndis-roll-out-disability-employment-and-carers>

THE BAD

The SA Trial is already massively behind schedule, some 12 months behind after less than two years. With the SA trial due to finish in June 2016 many of those for whom the Trial was intended will not be participants before the Trial ends.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2015/s4222725.htm>

Senator Mitch Fifield either does not seem to be fully across the extent of the issue or is just holding the government line

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2015/s4222724.htm>

Whilst the rollout for the 0-5 years cohort is nearing completion, (it was planned to be completed June 2014) the backlog of children aged 6-14 technically accepted in to the scheme, but awaiting commencement of the planning process, or services grows daily exponentially.

There is no consistent or transparent approach apparent as to how these children are transitioned in to the scheme or when they will actually get services.

Whilst children in the older cohort with severe and multiple disabilities have already waited past 9 months, some children with much lesser needs have not waited long at all to begin accessing services. With no needs based assessment as part of the process, or assessment on the impact of delaying appropriate service provision to these more profoundly disabled children or their families, the NDIA could be accused of cherry picking the easier clients to make their numbers look better.

THE UGLY

With Disability SA still left as we speak to pick up the tab for the older, more complex children not in the NDIS Trial and adults over 18 desperately needing services and those whose families fall in to crisis whilst waiting, Disability SA is more bereft of funding than ever before.

The failure of the Federal Government to announce the immediate distribution of the 2014 NDIS Tax Levy they are already collecting to the States for crisis relief (\$3.0 billion dollars so far) is just plain ugly.

Hockey and Abbott should be ashamed.

The result of this, States are unable to fund any planned respite for adults or accommodation for anyone other than those who are homeless. Some 40 plus homeless clients are currently living in temporary respite centres.

In addition this has left many empty rooms in SA supported residential homes; leaving service providers in a precarious financial position and many desperate families seeking an accommodation place for their loved ones with disability despairing.

The waiting lists continue to grow.

With state funded packages not increasing to cover the rise in service provision, many families will receive lesser services in 2014/15 whilst waiting for the NDIS. This represents a broken promise from NDIA that the State would continue to provide services until a NDIS Plan was in place.

Disability Speaks is seeking an urgent meeting with the SA State Minister for Disabilities in an attempt to make this issue a local and national priority. We will keep you posted

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