Changing the landscape for Disability: Riding the wave of the National Disability Insurance Scheme

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Learnings from Year 1 of the National Disability Insurance Scheme

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is embedded in legislation with bipartisan support and began on July 1 2013. The NDIS was established in response to identified need for improved service response for the disability sector and is informed by similar schemes in the UK & Europe.

The NDIS (the scheme), based on an individualised funding model, was established with the premise of choice & control for participants through the provision of reasonable and necessary disability supports.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) as the Commonwealth agency that manages the scheme determines eligibility and is the funding body for those who are Participants of the scheme.

Four initial trial sites began the launch of the NDIS in 2013 with a 3 years implementation phase 2013-2016, to provide learnings to inform full scheme, due to start from July 1 2016.

Emerging issues for providers of allied health therapy services include the interface between NDIA funded services and health services; service coordination and complex case management; who holds Duty of Care for Participants; emerging gaps in services no longer funded under NDIA and growing the workforce to meet service demand with primary growth expected in the Non-Government disability support sector.

This paper will firstly explore the learnings from Year 1 through short presentations by presenters from the initial trial sites. The presentations will discuss emerging issues for Australians with a disability, and for the workforce, including rural and remote areas.

Panel and participant discussion on implications for rural and remote Australians and workforce

Following presentations from the initial trial sites, a panel will be available comprising state and territory representatives to discuss commonalities emerging, support needs for the allied health workforce and the implications of the NDIS for rural and remote areas.