



Disability sector priorities for government

Goal: A quality sustainable disability service ecosystem supported by quality sustainable providers.

Overview: National Disability Services, Ability First and Alliance 20 represent disability service providers across Australia. Our members are committed to high-quality, evidence-based practices and are central to the success of the NDIS. We share the Australian Government's vision of an inclusive Australia, where people with disability live safely and equitably. Achieving this vision requires access to the right supports, at the right time, from the right people, services, and systems.

Enhancing market stewardship: The government plays a crucial role in shaping the disability support ecosystem through appropriate policy settings and commitments. Market stewardship involves shaping market behaviour, addressing systemic failures, and fostering an environment where people with disability can access high-quality, person-centred supports. Effective market stewardship will lead to greater value for money in the NDIS within the current envelope of funding and growth targets agreed by Government and National Cabinet.

Our commitment: Quality disability service providers are committed to partnering with the Government to deliver the reform agenda. The Government has set an 8 per cent growth target for the NDIS. Building a sustainable service system that prioritises the needs, rights, choices, and inclusion of people with disability, particularly those with the highest support needs, is in everyone's interest. Our members are committed to working with government and people with disability to co-design and deliver reforms that sustain the NDIS and deliver better outcomes—now and into the future.

Our top five priorities

1. Reform roadmap

The disability support system needs to change. Providers know that reform is needed. The Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Review set an ambitious reform agenda. But operating in an increasingly uncertain environment is impacting provider confidence in the way that reform is heading. A detailed, sequenced roadmap with coordinated workstreams for critical reform areas, underpinned by a change management approach will assist providers

support their boards, their staff, their communities and most importantly the people with disability they support plan for what lies ahead. NDS has developed a [Disability Reform Action Plan](#) on behalf of the provider sector which summarises the changes the sector wants from government in the short, medium and long-term.

2. Independent pricing that drives quality

Pricing now and into the future needs to support Scheme and sector sustainability, promote quality and shape the market in ways that better serve people with disability. A new independent pricing approach – guided by robust data on the true costs of delivering high quality supports to all people with disability, including those with complex support needs and those living in rural, remote and very remote areas – will increase transparency for participants, governments and the community. The creation of an independent price regulator would bring NDIS price regulation in line with the approach adopted by health and aged care systems, essential services price regulators and international market leaders and respond to recommendations made by the Productivity Commission and the NDIS Review.

3. Regulatory reform

The NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce made recommendations to reset the regulatory system. Improvements to the oversight and accountability in train now, such as universal registration for accommodation providers, need to be progressed as a priority. There is an opportunity to strengthen regulations to ensure all providers are proportionally regulated via a new, improved registration process. Recalibrating NDIS market settings will support appropriate government oversight of the market and ensure all disability providers are accountable for the safety and quality of the services that they provide.

4. Invest in foundational supports

The NDIS Review found that the current system is fragmented and insufficient. A well-functioning support system outside of the NDIS is one of the key levers to ensuring Scheme sustainability. An integrated pathway that includes more accessible universal supports and community-based services, alongside the NDIS, also holds opportunities to improve outcomes for young children and families and people with psychosocial disability. We need governments to publish a Foundational Supports Strategy recommended by the NDIS Review. A clear, public strategy – along with agreed funding commitments – will guide this work, prevent fragmentation and under-resourcing, and ensure that the design of foundational supports recognise both gaps and strengths in local community service infrastructure.

5. More jobs for people with disability

Employment participation by people with disability enhances the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as well as boosting the Australian economy as a whole. Policies and practices are needed that promote social procurement, customised employment pathways, assist people with high support needs access work, capacity building and skill development, early intervention supports aimed at school leavers, and employer engagement and incentives. A range of reforms are planned to existing disability employment programs. People with disability and providers need to be partners in the design and delivery of these.