

Summary of key points – National Press Club address the Hon Minister Stuart Roberts MP

14 November 2019

On 14 November 2019, the Hon Minister Stuart Roberts MP announced a six point plan to deliver the final stages of the NDIS to an estimated 500,000 participants over the next five years.

The Government's NDIS plan is described as analogues to six core (swimming) lanes:

- 1) Quicker access and quality decision making
- 2) Increased engagement and collaboration
- 3) Market innovation and improved technology
- 4) A financially sustainable scheme
- 5) Equitable and consistent decisions; and
- 6) Improved long term outcomes.

Lane 1 - Quicker access and quality decision making

The key points identified under Lane 1 include:

- Participants who only require a small adjustment to their plan due to a change in circumstances, and able to do so without a full plan review
- Inclusion of low cost, low risk equipment items under \$1,500 in a participant's plan without further assessment, quote or approval
- Reducing the number of quotes required to no more than two for equipment items above \$1,500
- Only requiring one quote for the replacement of an equipment item valued between \$1,500 and \$15,000
- The inclusion of appropriate repairs and maintenance for equipment funding in all plans
- Single point of contact for NDIS participants
- Longer duration of plans
- Joint planning meetings
- Provision of draft plan summaries from April 2020.

Lane 2 - Increased engagement and collaboration

The key points identified under Lane 2 include:

- Expanding the Community Connectors Program to help those requiring a more tailored support to access and engage with the NDIS
- Continue to implement the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building – or ILC Strategy.

Lane 3 – Market innovation and improved technology

The key points identified under Lane 3 include:

- The Government's the 'Growing the NDIS Market and Workforce' Strategy released early 2019
- \$5M Jobs and Market Fund and \$33M Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program to build sector wide and workforce capacity
- Implementation of NDIS pricing increases by the NDIA from 1 July 2019

Attachment 3

- Roll out of a nationally consistent regulation via the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
- Support for the development of new and innovative models of support by reducing the administrative burden NDIS participants and providers face when interacting with the NDIS technology.

Lane 4 – A financially sustainable scheme

The key points identified under Lane 4 include:

- Implementation of the ILC Strategy and the broader National Disability Strategy
- Resolving key interface issues between the NDIS and the health system
- Improved access and experiences for participants with psychosocial disability and addressing interface issues between the NDIS and mainstream mental health systems
- The introduction of Justice Liaison Officers in each state and territory to work across their justice systems to provide a single point of contact for the state and territory justice workers
- To improving the provision of transport supports under the NDIS. This included interim measures to increase transport funding for NDIS participants who are significant users of taxi subsidy schemes, and full reimbursement of states and territories for the continuation of their taxi subsidy schemes for NDIS participants until longer term transport support policy and funding is resolved
- Work through DRC to establish an NDIS Reserve Fund from accumulated cash currently in the NDIS. This will act as a fund to improve participant outcomes and manage scheme sustainability on insurance principles.

Lane 5 – Equitable and consistent decisions

The key points identified under Lane 5 include:

- Independent functional assessments fully paid for by the NDIA in the access and planning pathways from 1 July 2020
- NDIS will aim to remove the distinction between core and capacity building so that participants and their families can use plan funding more flexibly to those supports that best meet their needs from 1 July 2020
- The DRC is developing a National Disability Data and Research Policy, with the Commonwealth already committing \$15M for the development of the National Disability Data Asset.

Lane 6 – improved long term outcomes

The key points identified under Lane 6 include:

- NDIS Participant employment strategy was launched November 2019. To achieve the goal of 30 per cent of participants in paid work by 2023
- Review of Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Pricing and Payments Framework
- The release of the new SDA Design Standards, the outcomes of the SDA limited cost assumptions review is a new SDA Innovation Plan
- The Minister advised that he would be writing to states and territories to implement further recommendations to allow SDA eligible participants to be able to live in shared housing arrangements with family or friends that are not SDA eligible.
- Earlier this year the Government released a Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan which includes ongoing reforms to the SDA market and fixing the interface between the NDIS and the health system to assist in reducing the number of young people in residential aged care.