

DisabilityCare Australia

May 2013

Stronger. Smarter. **Fairer.**

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Contents

DisabilityCare Australia — here to stay	2
Delivering on disability reform	3
Strong and stable funding	4
DisabilityCare Australia Fund	5
Support to meet the needs of people with disability	6
A tailored and flexible system	7
A better future for children and young adults	8
Supporting families and carers	9
Rolling out DisabilityCare Australia across the country	10
Launch and rollout of DisabilityCare Australia	11
Launching DisabilityCare Australia	12
Launch locations	13
DisabilityCare Australia and a National Injury Insurance Scheme	14
Managing DisabilityCare Australia	15
DisabilityCare Australia — working with service providers	16
Strong and skilled workforce	17
Learning more about DisabilityCare Australia	18



DisabilityCare Australia — here to stay

We need reform

‘Current disability support arrangements are inequitable, underfunded, fragmented and inefficient and give people with a disability little choice’.
(Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, July 2011)

‘When implemented nationally the NDIS will transform disability support in Australia. It will expand access to disability services; increase choice for people with disability and their families and carers; generate economic and social benefits for Australia; and establish an equitable and efficient disability support system that is sustainable over the long-term’.
(National Disability Services as quoted in the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Report on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012, March 2013).

Why we need this reform

DisabilityCare Australia, the national disability insurance scheme, will mean that for the first time, Australians with significant and permanent disability will get the support they need, when they need it.

Strong and stable funding

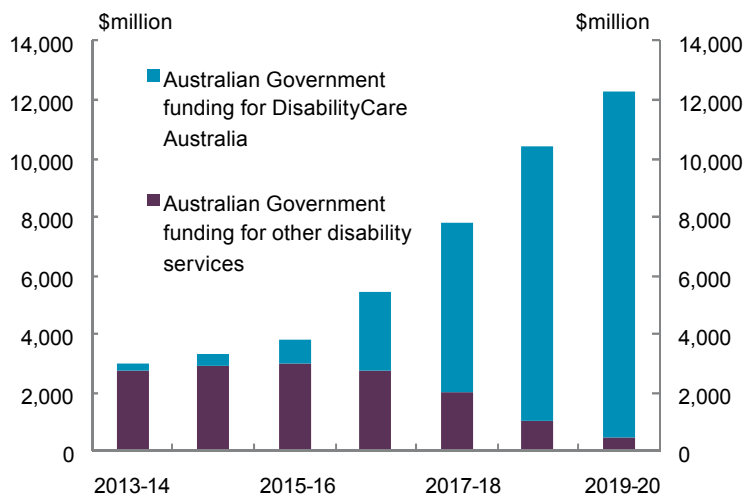
The Australian Government will provide \$19.3 billion over seven years from 2012-13 to roll out DisabilityCare Australia across the country. This brings the Australian Government’s total new investment in DisabilityCare Australia to \$14.3 billion over the period.

The Australian Government will provide funding of \$11.7 billion to DisabilityCare Australia in 2019-20, the first year after full national rollout. This represents 53 per cent of the \$22.2 billion total cost of running DisabilityCare Australia, with the States and Territories providing the remaining funding.

A national scheme

The Government is committed to full national rollout in 2018-19. This would see around 460,000 people with significant and permanent disability receiving the support they need.

Total Australian Government funding for DisabilityCare Australia and other disability services



Delivering on disability reform

Australia's most fundamental social policy reform since Medicare

Disability could affect us all. Many Australians are already living with disability, either because they themselves have a disability, because a close family member has a disability or because they care for someone with disability.

The current system is broken

The current system of support is inequitable, underfunded, fragmented and inefficient and provides little choice for people with disability.

That is why the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments are building DisabilityCare Australia.

A better life for Australians with significant and permanent disability

This reform will create opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Australians with disability to participate in our communities and in the economy in a way that many of us take for granted. It is about making sure that the people who most need access to the right support are able to lead a dignified life in a way that works for them, their families and carers.



Key milestones

Legislation to establish DisabilityCare Australia passed through the Parliament in March 2013.

The three year launch phase will benefit around 26,000 people.

DisabilityCare Australia will start in July 2013 in launch sites in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

From July 2014 the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory will join the launch phase.

DisabilityCare Australia will commence in Queensland from July 2016.

Full scheme agreements have been reached with New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.



Strong and stable funding

Paying a little to provide a lot for those most in need

All Australians will be asked to make a modest ongoing contribution to help fund DisabilityCare Australia.

An Australian on an average income of around \$70,000 a year will be asked to contribute around \$1 a day in extra Medicare levy to support DisabilityCare Australia.

This is a small price to pay for the peace of mind that comes with knowing that support is assured for all Australians if they or a loved one acquire significant and permanent disability. Paying a little more makes Australia fairer for everyone.

Even after this change, Australians will still be better off from the Government's three rounds of tax cuts since 2007-08 and the tripling of the tax free threshold.

Locking in future funding

People with disability, their families and carers deserve certainty that DisabilityCare Australia will be funded over the longer term. For this reason, from 1 July 2014 the Medicare levy will increase by half a percentage point from 1.5 to 2 per cent of taxable income.

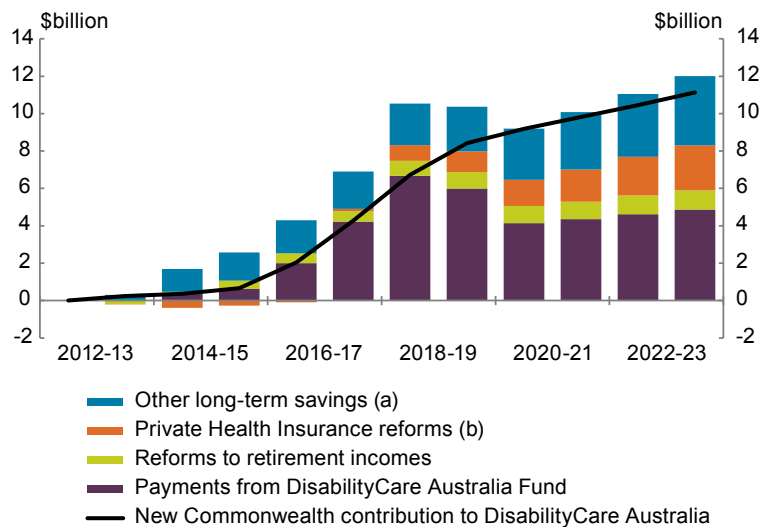
Between 2014-15 and 2018-19 approximately \$20.4 billion will be raised as a result of this increase.

Savings to deliver DisabilityCare Australia

To ensure that DisabilityCare Australia will be fully funded, the Government has needed to make tough decisions. This important reform will be delivered through part of the savings from reforms to the Government's assistance for private health insurance, reforms to retirement incomes and the phase-out of the net medical expenses tax offset as DisabilityCare rolls out and other long-term savings decisions in the 2013-14 Budget.

Together with the increase to the Medicare levy and contributions from State and Territory governments, these measures will make room in the budget for DisabilityCare Australia into the future.

Meeting the costs of DisabilityCare Australia



(a) Selected long-term savings from 2013-14 Budget and 2012-13 MYEFO.

(b) Net of Dental Health Reform Package expenditure.

DisabilityCare Australia Fund

DisabilityCare Australia Fund

The money raised from the increase in the Medicare levy will be placed into a DisabilityCare Australia Fund (the Fund) for 10 years which will only be drawn upon to fund the additional costs of delivering DisabilityCare Australia.

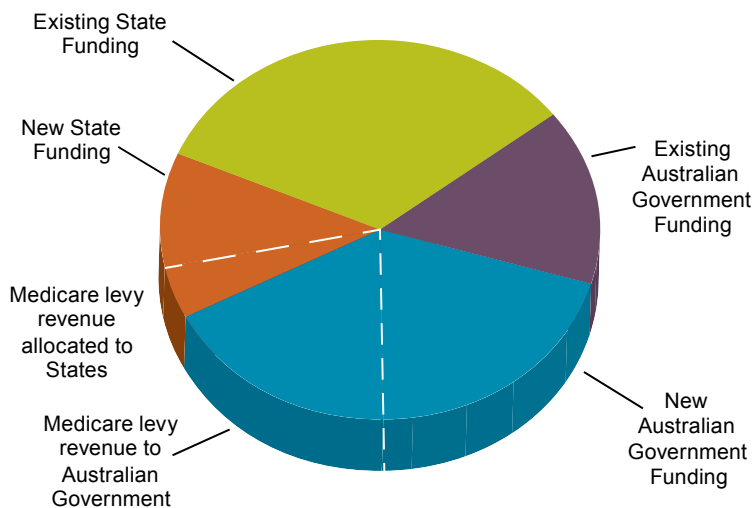
Assisting the States

A fixed amount of the money flowing into the Fund each year will be set aside for the States and Territories. This amount will be \$825 million in 2014-15 (one quarter of the money estimated to be raised in that year). The annual amount allocated to the Fund will be grown in future years by 3.5 per cent per year. Over 10 years, the States and Territories will be allocated a total of \$9.7 billion.

The States and Territories will be able to draw down from the Fund when they meet key conditions, including agreement to full scheme, and once at least 50 per cent of their eligible population is covered by the scheme. This is the stage at which it is likely that States and Territories will begin to incur significant new costs related to their participation in the scheme.

To support early establishment costs, eligible States and Territories will be able to access part of their annual allocation (10 per cent in 2015-16, and 20 per cent in 2016-17 and 2017-18) once they have clients participating in the scheme.

Composition of funding for DisabilityCare Australia in 2019-20



State and Territory contributions

In 2019-20, contributions from States and Territories who have agreed to fully roll out DisabilityCare Australia will include:

- more than \$3.2 billion for New South Wales
- more than \$2.5 billion for Victoria
- more than \$2 billion for Queensland
- around \$750 million for South Australia
- around \$230 million for Tasmania
- around \$170 million for the Australian Capital Territory
- around \$100 million for the Northern Territory

Commonwealth, State and Territory contributions to DisabilityCare Australia will be reviewed in 2017.



Support to meet the needs of people with disability

What the reforms mean for people with disability

DisabilityCare Australia could mean the difference between assistance to shower every day for someone with a spinal injury, rather than only a couple of times a week. It could mean a correctly fitting wheelchair for a child, rather than one that makes living with disability even harder as they grow and wait years for a new one.

Working with and for people with disability

People with significant and permanent disability, supported by their families and carers as appropriate, will work with DisabilityCare Australia to develop their own personal plan that meets their needs and supports their life goals. They will have greater choice and control over the supports they receive.

Personalised support

DisabilityCare Australia will work with people with disability to:

- discuss individual goals and support needs
- help develop a personal plan
- consider the supports needed to strengthen family and informal caring arrangements
- organise and coordinate support as requested
- connect to mainstream services and community support

Other people with disability who require some assistance will be supported to access relevant government and community services in their area.

Launch sites starting from July 2013

- Hunter region, New South Wales (including Newcastle)
- Barwon area, Victoria (including Geelong)
- South Australia (children aged 0-14 years)
- Tasmania (young adults aged 15-24 years)

Launch sites starting from July 2014

- Australian Capital Territory
- Barkly region, Northern Territory (including Tennant Creek)

My AccessChecker

From July 2013, people will be able to contact DisabilityCare Australia directly or use the My AccessChecker tool (available on the website from June 2013) to find out more information about access eligibility

Offices will be open in launch locations. More details can be found on the last page or see www.ndis.gov.au.



A tailored and flexible system

People with disability at the centre

DisabilityCare Australia planners and local area coordinators will be able to meet with people with disability in a place that suits them — their home, somewhere in their local community or in a DisabilityCare Australia office.

Choice and control

People with disability can choose how they want to manage their funding, the types of supports they want, and how and by whom those supports are delivered. DisabilityCare Australia provides the flexibility to review a plan when needed and respond to changing circumstances over a person's lifetime.

Portability

Importantly, once rolled out nationally, people with disability will not lose access to supports or go to the back of a queue if they move home or interstate.



Designing supports to meet individual needs

A fundamental principle of DisabilityCare Australia is to consider a person's support needs over their lifetime.

Examples of supports that the new system will provide are:

- support to live and work independently in the community
- early intervention therapies
- home modifications
- vehicle modifications
- aids and equipment
- assistance with household tasks
- support for personal care
- assistance with transport
- assistance for family and carers.

Existing supports

Supports provided through DisabilityCare Australia will not be assessed under means testing for income support payments like the Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment and family payments.

How things will change under DisabilityCare Australia

Feature	Current system	DisabilityCare Australia
Eligibility	Varies from state to state	Consistent nationally, set out in legislation
Choice and control	Varies state by state and most people have little say over the supports they receive	Individual has control over the type and mix of supports, delivery and how funding is managed
Access	Capped — people may be eligible but can spend years on waiting lists	Demand driven — people with disability get the support they need, when they need it
Funding	Multiple programs within and across governments	Single funding pool (pooling contributions from Commonwealth and States and Territories) to be administered by DisabilityCare Australia



Early intervention to maximise the potential of children with disability

John is 4 years old, lives in South Australia, and has Autism Spectrum Disorder. His paediatrician refers his family to DisabilityCare Australia to access early intervention support for John.

Under the current system, John's parents would have needed to work with multiple agencies to find support for John's various needs.

Under the new system, DisabilityCare Australia meets with John and his parents at their home to talk about his support needs and the family's goals for him, such as improving his capacity for learning through early intervention.

John's agreed plan includes therapies focused on motor skills, communication and social interaction to help him to learn, play and express himself.

Working with DisabilityCare Australia, John's parents receive information and learn techniques to support John's development at home, and are connected to a local support group, which puts them in touch with families in similar circumstances.

A better future for children and young adults

Early intervention

DisabilityCare Australia will provide people with disability with the right supports at the right time to maximise their long-term wellbeing and independence. The scheme will make early investments that improve long-term outcomes for people, reduce lifetime costs and delay or mitigate the deterioration in a person's functional capacity.

Children with disability will be a particular focus of early intervention.

Launch areas focusing on children and young adults

South Australia's launch will cover children and focus on early interventions with the greatest potential for making a difference throughout a child's life.

Tasmania's launch will provide young adults with disability with improved supports to help them move from school to further education, vocational training, employment, and become more independent.

Complementing mainstream services

DisabilityCare Australia will complement, but not replace, the mainstream services to which all Australians are entitled — such as health services, education and public transport.



Supporting families and carers

Support for families and carers of people with disability

DisabilityCare Australia will provide families and carers with the peace of mind that there is a structured plan in place that will mean the person they care for has security into the future.

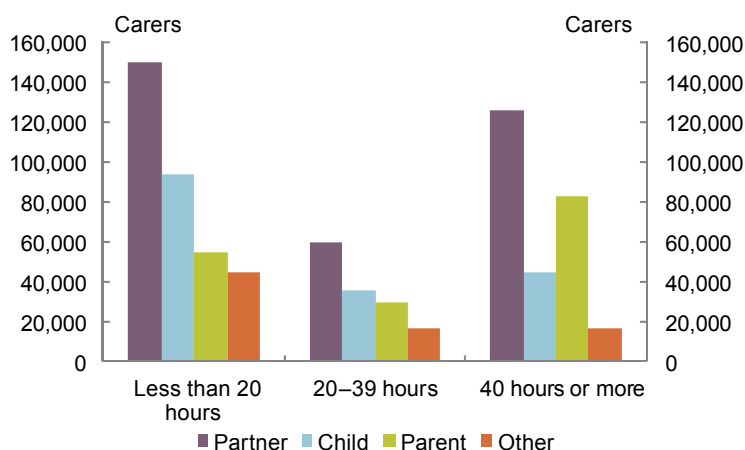
For too long the system has pushed families and carers, particularly parents, to crisis point where they may struggle to continue in their caring role. To support and sustain informal care arrangements, DisabilityCare Australia will work with families and carers to understand their needs as well as the needs of the person they care for.

Ensuring care and support is sustainable

DisabilityCare Australia will not replace families and carers, but it will make it easier for people to continue to provide support by ensuring they get the assistance and respite they need.

DisabilityCare Australia will provide families and carers with information on a range of services to assist them, such as referrals that link them with community and carer services.

Average current weekly hours spent caring



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2009.



Support for families and carers

Ben, who is 38 years old and lives in Geelong in Victoria, has cerebral palsy. Ben has always lived with his mother, Ruth, who provides all of his care and support.

Ben and his mother visit a DisabilityCare Australia office to seek support for his needs. A planner from DisabilityCare Australia talks to them about Ben's goals, such as achieving greater independence.

Ben tells the planner that he would like to be less dependent on his mother, particularly for his personal care needs. Ruth is worried that a time will come when she will no longer be able to be Ben's sole carer.

Ben's agreed plan provides support to increase his independence over time. This includes therapies and training to develop his problem solving skills, memory and movement, and a support worker to assist with self-care and performing household tasks.

Ruth's care remains central but Ben's plan allows Ruth to reduce the assistance she provides for him over time, with the knowledge that he will continue to receive the supports he needs.



Rolling out DisabilityCare Australia across the country

Helping thousands of Australians

A reform as big as this takes time to implement. The Government will roll out DisabilityCare Australia gradually, so that people with disability are supported to transition to the new scheme. This will also enable governments and service providers to learn from early implementation to inform the rollout across Australia.

Full scheme rollout

Australian Capital Territory

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2016 and assist more than 5,000 people.

New South Wales

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2018 and assist around 150,000 people.

South Australia

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2018 and assist around 33,000 South Australians.

Tasmania

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2019 and assist around 11,000 Tasmanians.

Victoria

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2019 and assist more than 100,000 Victorians.

Queensland

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2019 and assist around 97,000 Queenslanders.

Northern Territory

Full rollout will be achieved by July 2019 and assist around 7,000 people.

Full national coverage

The Government will roll out DisabilityCare Australia in full between July 2016 and July 2019 with the agreement of the States and Territories.

DisabilityCare Australia will have full coverage across the Australian Capital Territory by July 2016, in New South Wales and South Australia by July 2018, and Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory by July 2019. This will see the scheme cover around 90 per cent of the total Australian population.




The Government is continuing to work towards the goal of having full national coverage by July 2019. This would directly assist around 460,000 people with significant and permanent disability.

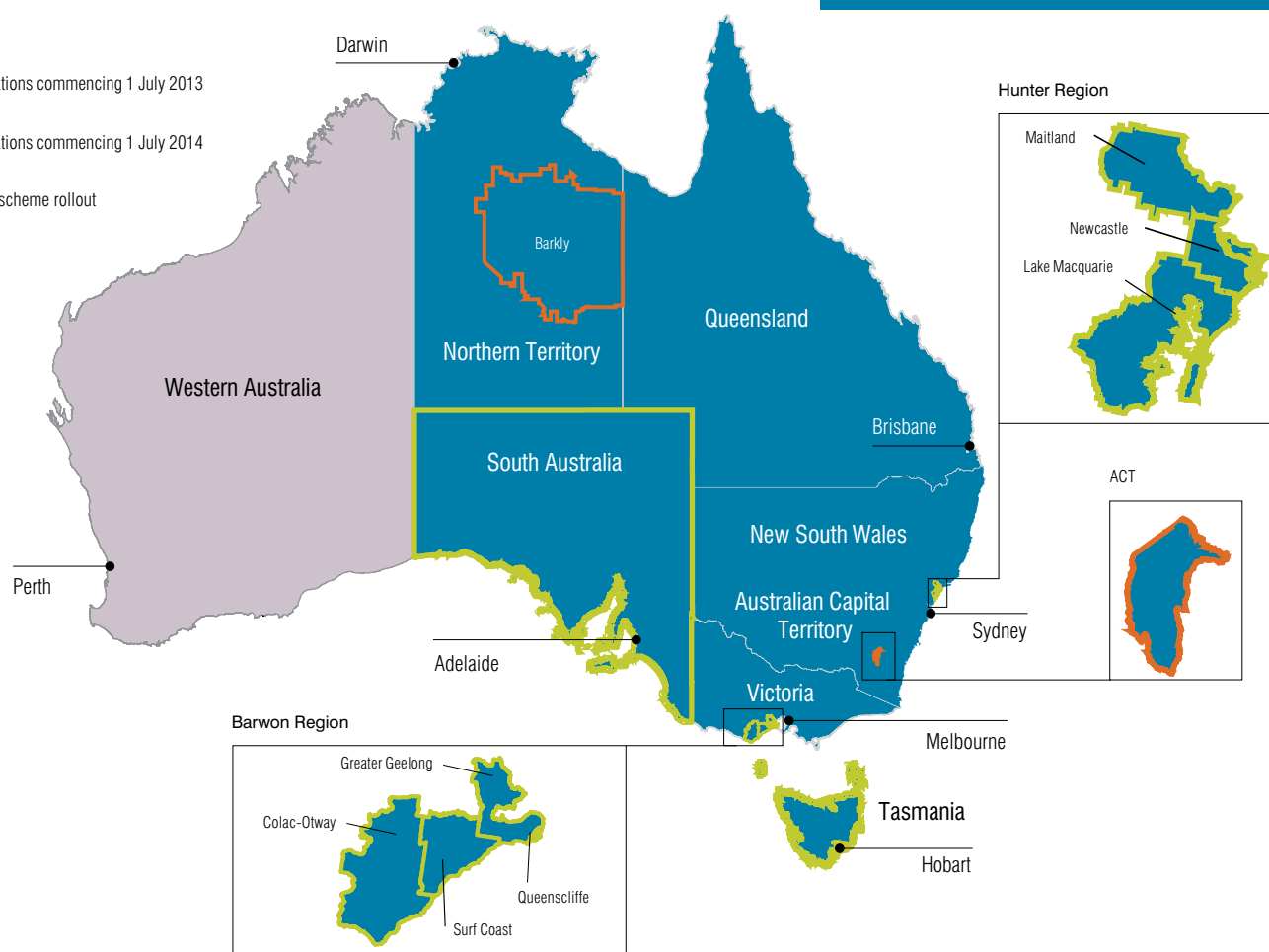


Launch and rollout of DisabilityCare Australia

Launch locations and agreed full scheme rollout

Legend

-  Launch locations commencing 1 July 2013
-  Launch locations commencing 1 July 2014
-  Agreed full scheme rollout



- Agreed full scheme rollout will be achieved by July 2016 in the Australian Capital Territory.
- Agreed full scheme rollouts will be achieved by July 2018 in NSW and South Australia.
- Agreed full scheme rollouts will be achieved by July 2019 in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory.
- The Government is continuing to work with Western Australia towards full scheme rollout.



Supporting young adults with disability

Deborah is 17, lives in the Hunter region of NSW and has Down syndrome. With the help of her dad, Deborah completes a short questionnaire about accessing supports from DisabilityCare Australia to prepare her for learning at school and to participate more in the community. They meet with a planner from DisabilityCare Australia to talk about her goals and support needs.

Deborah tells the planner that she wants to learn to be more independent when she finishes school and that she wants to work in the food industry because she likes to cook.

Deborah's agreed plan provides access to supports to help her develop decision making and planning skills and learn to use public transport. A mentor helps Deborah find and attend a cooking class at a local community centre. A disability employment service works with Deborah and her school to explore future job and training opportunities.

Deborah's plan can be reviewed in the future, such as when she decides to start post school training or work, to make sure it still reflects her goals and needs.

Launching DisabilityCare Australia

Learning from launches

Governments are launching DisabilityCare Australia in six selected locations to ensure that the rollout to full scheme is informed by experience and feedback from people with disability, their families and carers, service providers and community organisations.

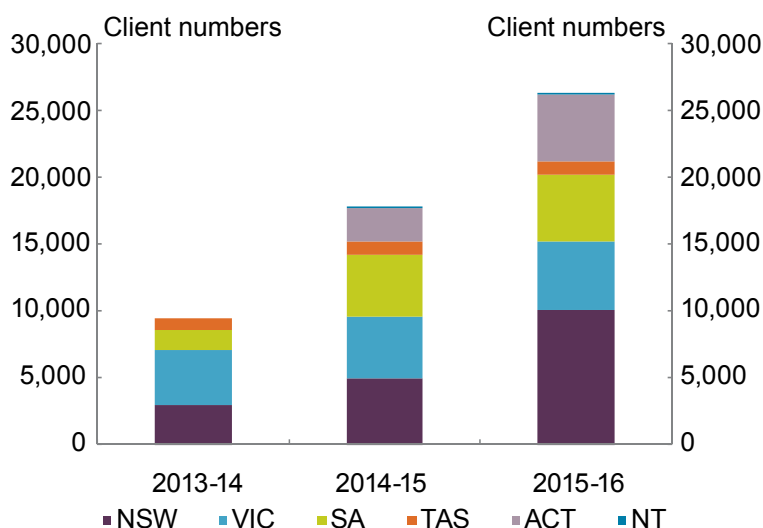
Hunter region of New South Wales (NSW)

Launch will commence in the Hunter region of NSW from July 2013. Approximately 10,000 people will benefit from individualised supports by July 2016. Existing disability service users in Newcastle will enter the scheme during the first year. Residents in Lake Macquarie will enter during the second year, and residents in the Maitland local government area will commence in the third year.

Barwon region of Victoria

Launch will commence in the Barwon region of Victoria from July 2013. Approximately 5,000 people will progressively access the scheme and receive individualised supports by July 2016. Most people currently receiving Individual Support Plans will transition to the scheme during the first year.

Client numbers across launch jurisdictions



Launch locations

South Australia

Launch will commence in South Australia from July 2013. The launch will benefit children aged 0-5 years in the first year, 0-13 years in the second year and 0-14 years in the third year. Approximately 5,000 children will receive individualised support during launch.

Tasmania

Launch will commence in Tasmania from July 2013. Approximately 950 young adults aged 15 to 24 years will benefit from the launch. Young adults receiving individual support or community assistance packages, those who are leaving the child protection system and 2013 school leavers will be prioritised in the first year.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Launch will commence in the ACT from July 2014. More than 5,000 people will benefit from the scheme when it is rolled out across the Territory by July 2016.

Northern Territory (NT)

Launch will commence in the Barkly region of the NT from July 2014, with details on the number of people who will benefit currently being finalised with the NT government. This will provide valuable information on delivering individualised support in remote Australia.

Each launch site will have a specific process to phase in participants to DisabilityCare Australia.

Details of the phasing-in process will be on the DisabilityCare Australia website (www.ndis.gov.au) when launch commences.



More choice

Like many other 19 year olds, Brendan wants to go to university and move out of home. Brendan faces challenges to studying at university because of his severe vision impairment. He needs transport to get to the university, which is a 40 minute drive away with no public transport access, and a modified laptop to enable him to take notes and participate in his courses.

Also, Brendan would like to be able to shop and cook for himself when he moves out of home, but does not have the equipment to enable this and wonders if someone can help him with kitchen set up and cooking methods.

Under current arrangements Brendan can pay for some taxis to university using taxi subsidy arrangements, but he needs to pay for some of the fare which means less money for other essentials.

As there is no public transport DisabilityCare Australia is able to help Brendan with transport costs to the university. DisabilityCare Australia also provides Brendan with funds for a bar-code reader to help with shopping and an Occupational Therapist to advise on kitchen set up so he can cook for himself. A DisabilityCare Australia Local Area Coordinator helps him to meet with the University Equity and Diversity Officer so he can get a laptop and find out about the other assistance available at the university.



DisabilityCare Australia and a National Injury Insurance Scheme

Supporting people who suffer a catastrophic injury

The Commonwealth is working with State and Territory governments to develop a National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) to complement DisabilityCare Australia by providing lifetime care and support to people who are newly affected by a catastrophic injury as a result of certain accidents.

Currently, the support a person receives depends on where they live, where the injury occurred and who was at fault — the system is a postcode lottery. The NIIS will build on existing State and Territory accident compensation arrangements to ensure no-one falls through the cracks.

Immediate access to medical and disability treatment

Support will be provided on a no-fault basis, which means that legal disputes can be avoided and instead a person will be able to benefit from immediate access to medical and disability care.

DisabilityCare Australia launch jurisdictions will ensure that all people who suffer a catastrophic injury from a motor vehicle accident receive lifetime care and support. The Government is continuing to work with State and Territory governments to extend the NIIS to workplace accidents, medical accidents and general accidents.

Easier access to support

Currently in some jurisdictions, if an individual is injured in a motor vehicle accident and it is unclear whether or not they are at fault, they may need to take legal action to be able to receive any compensation. If found to be at fault, they may receive no compensation, and even if they are not at fault, the legal process can delay medical treatment for many years.

Under the National Injury Insurance Scheme, support will be provided immediately after the accident because time will not be spent arguing about who was at fault. Support will potentially include medical treatment and rehabilitation, support for personal care needs, home and vehicle modifications, aids and appliances, educational support, vocational and social rehabilitation and domestic assistance.

As a first step, DisabilityCare Australia launch jurisdictions have agreed to minimum national benchmarks for motor vehicle accidents, ensuring motor vehicle accident victims who suffer a catastrophic injury will receive the support they need over their lifetime.



Managing DisabilityCare Australia

Keeping costs in check

Governments want to make sure that the funding invested in DisabilityCare Australia is subject to rigorous financial controls, so that the costs of the scheme are well managed and DisabilityCare Australia is sustainable into the future.

A number of checks and balances are included in the design of the scheme.

- Access criteria: there are rigorous criteria around who can access funded supports.
- Upfront investment to reduce the costs of the scheme: early investments, including upfront expenditure on home or vehicle modifications that improve independence, will also save care costs over the long-term.
- Reasonable and necessary support: only those supports that meet the reasonable and necessary test will be funded. Supports must be value for money, effective and beneficial.

The senior management and Board of DisabilityCare Australia will actively manage the scheme's long-term liabilities within a rigorous governance framework. Legislation requires that the Board include members with financial management and corporate governance skills.



Insurance principles of DisabilityCare Australia

DisabilityCare Australia will take a lifelong approach to providing support to people with significant and permanent disability. Individual plans will vary across a person's life.

DisabilityCare Australia will use insurance principles, supported by actuarial modelling and advice, to safeguard the sustainability of the scheme. This will involve:

- estimating, monitoring and managing the costs of supporting people with disability over the long-term
- efficient allocation of resources
- investment in supports which improve independence, education and employment outcomes.



DisabilityCare Australia — working with service providers

Registering your organisation

If you are interested in providing supports in a launch site, whether you are an existing service provider or new to the sector, you can register online with DisabilityCare Australia from June 2013.

The registration form and other important information including requirements for the provision of different services will be available from the website (www.ndis.gov.au).

Working with service providers

A strong, robust disability sector is critical to the success of DisabilityCare Australia. DisabilityCare Australia will work closely with service providers to help them transition to the new way of delivering services. Particular areas of focus will include: capacity building; transition support and change management; workforce planning and development; and support for service quality and innovation.

Transitioning to the new scheme

DisabilityCare Australia will initially draw on services through existing arrangements. When DisabilityCare Australia begins in July 2013, some types of support provided to people with disability will continue to be delivered under existing block grant or case-based funding arrangements.

Over time, as people move to support provided under DisabilityCare Australia in launch regions, and as the scheme becomes national, a number of existing Commonwealth programs will transition either in full or in part to DisabilityCare Australia.

With the help of local area coordinators and sector development funding, DisabilityCare Australia will also support innovation and community capacity building to diversify the supports available to people with disability.

Sector Development Fund: will assist to prepare the disability sector, community and individuals for DisabilityCare Australia. It will be used to fund activities including transition support, workforce planning and development, and support for service quality and innovation.

For more information see www.ndis.gov.au.

Strong and skilled workforce

Growing the workforce

The introduction of DisabilityCare Australia will present opportunities but also some big challenges for the disability support workforce. There are many people that assist in supporting people with disability, including volunteers, and of course, families and carers.

It is estimated that as we fully roll out DisabilityCare Australia the current formal disability workforce will need to double. This will create career opportunities for people in the disability sector. Governments and the sector will need to help facilitate opportunities and make sure that resources are available to help grow the workforce.



Meeting local workforce needs

DisabilityCare Australia will work to maximise the existing expertise and workforce because there are many important existing relationships that have developed over many years.

DisabilityCare Australia will work to build on these networks and at the same time ensure that where improvement is needed, changes can happen.

DisabilityCare Australia will develop a Workforce Plan that includes strategies such as the introduction of local training and development initiatives, and ways of attracting and recruiting employees and volunteers.

Learning more about DisabilityCare Australia

More information

For more information on DisabilityCare Australia:

- visit www.ndis.gov.au
- send an email to NDISenquiries@fahcsia.gov.au
- call 1800 800 110
- To stay up-to-date with the rollout of the scheme, visit www.ndis.gov.au and click 'sign up now'

DisabilityCare Australia has established offices for launch in July 2013 in:

- Charlestown in NSW
- Geelong in Victoria
- Saint Marys and Elizabeth in South Australia
- Devonport, Launceston and Hobart in Tasmania

