



Centre for
Applied Disability
Research

An Initiative of National Disability Services

Economic Benefits of the NDIS: opportunity waiting...

UNSW SPRC

May 2015

Economic Benefits of the NDIS

- ❖ **Implementation of the NDIS**
- ❖ **Reforms of Disability Employment**
- ❖ **Welfare reform**
- ❖ **Mainstream employer response**
- ❖ **National Disability Strategy**

Build an NDIS that is workable for all stakeholders

- Remarkable progress, unprecedented support
- Learn and build not based on co-design
- Secure funding (a plan) beyond 2018-19 that reflects the post-trial implementation agreements with states and territories
- Ensure NDIS prices are sufficient to sustain the supply of diverse support options and to conserve not-for-profit infrastructure and social capital (deregulated prices with fair assumptions and real data to underpin the 'reasonable cost model')
- Extend support for transition beyond the trial sites and trial phase (priorities are benchmarking, back office and workforce sustainability)

Expand work opportunities for people with disability

- Below the OECD average, static for two decades. Participation rates 15 to 64 (52.8%) (c/t 82.5% without disability); unemployment 9.4% (almost twice that of people without disability).
- 2012 revision of Disability Impairment Tables has significantly slowed the growth rate of the DSP population (static relative to pop growth).
- Heterogeneity of the DSP population. Different people require different strategies for job support depending on their disability type, functional capacity, work history and age.

To do list

- **Employ more people with disability in the Australian public service**
- **Implement a government procurement program to boost disability employment**
- **Establish an industry development plan for supported employment (20,500)**
- **Improve pathways to work**
- **Implement further red tape reduction and program enhancements**
- **Invest in innovative approaches to employer engagement**

Champion the National Disability Strategy

- Action on recent reviews:
 - *HRC review of access to criminal justice system;*
 - *Review of the Disability Standard for Accessible Public Transport (2014)*
 - *Productivity Commission review of options for childcare and early childhood learning.*
 - *Review of Funding for Schooling*
- Collect relevant data to measure tangible change and outcomes
 - Improve SDAC through better alignment between the SDAC and Census questions on significant disability to allow geographical breakdowns.
 - Maintain data compatibility with the disability services national minimum data set.
 - Amend Australia's key classification systems to make it easier to isolate the disability-related workforce
- Establish a disability research fund

CADR – State of the Sector focus

**Are the right services
at the right place at the
right time, for the right
price, delivered in a
manner consistent
with the expressed
preferences of people
with disability?**



Dissemination and coordination

- ❁ **Lines of Enquiry– regular newsletter containing a selection of the latest disability research and evaluation**
 - **promote (member) research plus disability researchers, include disability research in the news, opportunity to advertise research interests, scholarships etc**
- ❁ **CADR website**
 - **Clearinghouse**
- ❁ **Research and sector development publications**
- ❁ **Applied Research Conferences and seminars**