



National Disability Insurance Scheme

POSITION STATEMENT

Background:

The rapid progression of MND results in increasing support needs and reliance on a range of services and aids and equipment to maintain quality of life and social inclusion. The rapid progression also means that people have little opportunity to plan ahead or adjust to increasing disability. A rapid response to service provision is therefore imperative.

MND Australia believes:

- It is time to change the way services for people with disabilities are funded and structured in Australia
- People diagnosed with MND must be able to access disability services based on need no matter where they live or how old they are
- Waiting lists are not an option for people living with MND and their families
- A national funding methodology based on need has many benefits for people living with MND and their families to ensure a rapid response to need
- Such a scheme should be funded by all taxpayers through general revenue or through a Medicare-type levy
- Funding for essential care, support, case management, respite, therapy, aids, equipment and training should be drawn from this pool of funds so that people born with a disability or who acquire a disability through accident, injury or a medical condition such as MND would all be eligible for assistance based on need
- A NDIS offers a solution to the chronic unmet need for lifetime care services
- A NDIS would give people diagnosed with MND the peace of mind that optimal care will be available to help them live better for longer

MND Australia calls for:

- A major feasibility study to be conducted to explore cost and design options as soon as possible
- The MND community to support this scheme and to take action to spread the word in their community and to their government representatives



- A bipartisan government response to the outcomes of the *Productivity Commission inquiry into a National Long Term Care and Support Scheme for people with a disability and their families* so that this significant social change can take place to benefit all Australians in the future

At present most people living with MND have to wait for access to disability services. For many they are deemed eligible for a service but are placed on a waiting list often for long periods of time. Case management is not always available and packages of care often scarce. For many people the wait for equipment may be many months or be very costly. In some states people over 65 are unable to access the disability services they need and people under 65 are unable to access residential care if needed.

The concept of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is receiving increasing support from a range of disability advocacy groups and the wider community. Current funding arrangements are inadequate and a NDIS would provide a more sustainable funding structure for the government and the community as demand increases over time.

Considered by the Executive Management Group 1 April 2010

Considered and endorsed by MND Australia board 21 June 2010

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Warren', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ralph Warren (President)

Review date

Acknowledgement:

Background to NDIS taken from the NDIS website and Toolkit: <http://www.ndis.org.au/>.