

Sector e-Bulletin

March 2015

WA NDIS My Way trial builds on positive start

There has been a 20 per cent increase in the number of WA NDIS My Way trial participants in the Lower South West at the end of the second quarter.

In the last six months, 623 people – up from 518 people in the first quarter – were found eligible for supports and services in the State Government-delivered trial of the NDIS in Western Australia.

“I am also very pleased to see the increased numbers of people with psychosocial disability joining the trial, with 44 people now eligible, up from nine in the first three months,” Disability Services Minister Helen Morton said.

The Minister said the second quarter had again seen an expansion of options available to people in the trial, with the number of endorsed service providers increasing to 35.

“People’s choices are growing. Thirty-three per cent of people have also embraced the option to take greater control of their supports and services and are self-managing their own arrangements, compared with four per cent nationally,” Mrs Morton said.

“We continue to receive positive feedback from people in the trial and we know WA’s NDIS My Way is genuinely improving people’s lives,” she said.

To read the quarterly reports, visit [the Commission’s website](#).

Forum provides WA NDIS My Way feedback

A WA NDIS My Way forum in Busselton on 11 February provided people with disability, their families, carers and service providers an opportunity to provide feedback about the trial.

One of the forum participants was Pam Fordham from Yallingup.

Approximately 60 people attended the forum, which was run by an independent facilitator to allow people to have robust and honest conversations.

On the same day, National Disability Services (NDS) organised an afternoon session, attended by about 80 people, which focused on disability and mental health service providers in the trial site.

The forums allowed people to identify what was working well and suggest opportunities for improvement. They also enabled people to connect with others involved in the trial and hear about their experiences.

Commission Director General Ron Chalmers, along with other key staff members, were on hand at the conclusion of each of the sessions to answer participants' questions.

Learnings from the forum will be used as part of a wider strategy to continuously improve the WA NDIS My Way model and outcomes for people with disability.

Expo offers information about services

The Disability Services Commission is hosting an expo on 23 March for people who want to know more about disability services and service providers.

The event will be held from 2pm to 8pm at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Organisations that provide accommodation, advocacy, recreation and daytime support, respite, specialist equipment and therapy services will exhibit at the expo.

There will also be two panel sessions which will discuss choice and control, self-directed services, individual planning and the WA NDIS My Way trial.

The Commission will have a booth where staff will be on hand to provide information about a range of Commission supports and services including WA NDIS My Way and the accommodation transition project.

The convention centre has wheelchair access, lifts and ACROD bays. For details visit [the convention centre's website](http://www.pcec.com.au) (www.pcec.com.au).

For more information about the expo, email: lauren.farquhar@dsc.wa.gov.au, phone 9426 9333 or [visit the Commission's website](#).

More nominate for Disability Support Awards

There has been a marked increase in the number of nominations by people with disability for this year's Disability Support Awards, to be held on 28 March.

Of 162 nominations received this year across seven new award categories, 40 per cent (up from one per cent last year) were by people with disability who nominated independently.

Another 50 per cent of nominations were made by people with disability who are supported by disability service or mainstream organisations.

The awards will recognise West Australians who demonstrate excellence, passion and commitment in supporting people with disability.

National Disability Services (NDS WA) Western Australia hosts this event with the Disability Services Commission.

WA Governor Kerry Sanderson will deliver the opening address and Disability Services Minister Helen Morton will present an award.

Ticket sales end on 20 March. To buy tickets visit [the NDS website](http://www.nds.org.au) (www.nds.org.au) or phone 9443 3468.

Public can have a say about NDIS quality

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has launched a public consultation process on quality and safeguards for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The consultation paper outlines options for registering providers, handling complaints and staff screening to ensure they are safe to work with vulnerable people.

This consultation is for the quality and safeguarding system being implemented by the Commonwealth and is separate to the Quality System now being implemented in WA by the Commission.

Visit [the Department of Social Services website](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au) (www.engage.dss.gov.au) to download the consultation paper.

Project investigates services for children

Ways to improve support and service requirements for children with disability and those with high health support needs are being explored in a Disability Services Commission-funded project.

The Centre for Cerebral Palsy is working with Curtin University and a reference group on the project which seeks to understand the views of family members caring for children under 18 years with disability and high health support needs.

Curtin University researchers would like to speak to disability sector organisations and family members who care for, or have cared for, a child or children with disability and complex medical needs. The child or children may be under the care of multiple health professionals, has been hospitalised, may need medical technology and has limited opportunity to participate in educational and social activities.

The project recommendations, which will be submitted to the Commission mid-2015, will shape a second project to increase the overall levels of the supports that families say they need.

For more information on how to take part, phone Dr Tina (Christina) Fernandes on 0434 916 085 or 9266 7330 or email: c.fernandes@curtin.edu.au .

Integrated football welcomes players

People with an intellectual disability who love to play football are invited to a Come and Try football clinic on 22 March.

The Falcons Football District invites male and female footballers who are older than 16 years to attend the clinic, to be held from 10am to 12pm at the HBF Arena in Joondalup.

The clinic is supported by the Western Australia Amateur Football League (WAAFL) Integrated Football, the Disability Services Commission, Inclusion WA, the City of Joondalup and Ocean Ridge Amateur Football Club.

The WAAFL Integrated Football program, which promotes inclusion in sport, enables people with intellectual disability to join a local football club, experience the benefits of being part of a welcoming club group and play in a competition.

For details, contact Greg Gilbee: ggilbee@wafc.com.au or 9287 5500.

Future submissions

If you have relevant information to share with the disability sector, including resources and links relating to individualised services and supports, please [email: communications@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@dsc.wa.gov.au) .