

WA NDIS My Way trial off to a good start



The start of the WA NDIS My Way trial in the Lower South West has been positive, according to the first quarterly report on the State Government's trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Western Australia.

In the first three months, 518 people including Luther Frost-Barnes (left), joined the trial and nine new service providers were registered in the Lower South West, giving people a greater choice of supports and services in their local community.

The Disability Services Commission's Disability Reform Executive Director Robyn Massey said nine people with psychosocial disability were also found eligible in the first quarter.

"The disability and mental health sectors continue to work in close partnership to ensure that people are aware of their potential eligibility for supports and services," Ms Massey said.

A key element of WA NDIS My Way is its long-term viability and an independent actuary is monitoring the trial to ensure financial sustainability.

"The WA NDIS My Way approach focuses first on good planning," Ms Massey said.

"Locally-based My Way Coordinators support people with disability and their families, friends and carers to engage with existing networks and supports in the community and access mainstream services such as education and health."

To view the quarterly report, go to the [My Way page](#) on the Commission's website.

For more information about the WA NDIS My Way trial, phone 1800 996 214 or email MyWay@dsc.wa.gov.au .

Visit website for Quality resources

The Disability Services Commission is committed to ensuring the highest quality of services for people with disability. The Commission's Quality System has been updated to incorporate the new National Standards for Disability Services.

In response to feedback received from the disability sector at Quality System workshops earlier this year, new resources have also been developed and are available on the Commission's website.

These include fact sheets about changes to quality evaluation and self-assessment processes, how consumers are involved and a list of national and State resources that provide guidance about the national standards.

National Disability Services WA will hold training and information sessions about the Quality System in 2015, with a range of training materials being provided.

For more, visit the [Quality System page](#) on the Commission's website or phone 9426 9200.

Transition process keeps to flexible schedule

It has been just over a year since the Disability Services Commission announced the plan to transition about 60 per cent of its accommodation services to non-government service providers.

The change offers people with disability living in Commission-run accommodation more choice and control over the supports and services they receive.

Three transition groups are now underway, with many people having chosen their future service providers. Two houses have now completed their transition to non-government providers, with several others well on the way to doing so.

The Commission's Strategic Services Director Fleur Hill said that one of the ways the Commission was engaging with families about the project was through information sessions at various locations in the Perth metropolitan area.

“In early 2015 we will hold more of the information sessions we started this year,” she said.

“We found the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with someone who really understood the ins and outs of the process went a long way to address concerns.”

For more information: email dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au or phone 9426 9200 or 1800 998 214 (freecall).

Research grant announced in Disability Awareness Week

A \$40,000 grant for disability research that honours renowned West Australian child health researcher Dr Louisa Alessandri was announced by the Premier during Disability Awareness Week.

Premier Colin Barnett announced the new grant at the National Disability Services' annual International Day of People with Disability breakfast.

Mr Barnett said the successful applicant would support evidence-based research that would help to continuously improve services and programs to support people with disability.

For more about the Disability Services Commission grant, go to the [Disability Awareness Week page](#) on the Commission's website or phone 9426 9200.

Welcoming communities



Disability Awareness Week was celebrated around Western Australia at many inclusive events including art workshops, concerts, the launch of a new community garden plot for people with disability and Special Olympics, all of which were run by community groups or

organisations. Of these events, 23 were supported by Commission grants of \$250.

The events promoted the Count Me In vision: that we all live in welcoming communities that facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for everyone.

The Commission also published a 16-page lift-out in The West Australian newspaper to raise community awareness of disability services and supports in WA and on promoting awareness of the WA NDIS My Way trial.

Disability Services Minister Helen Morton (pictured above) celebrated Disability Awareness Week with Durham Road School students who participated in a kite making workshop organised by the City of Bayswater.

If you would like a hard copy of the lift-out, email media@dsc.wa.gov.au or phone 9426 9260.

To view an electronic version, go to the [Disability Awareness Week page](#) on the Commission's website.

Call for feedback on insurance Green Paper

The State Government is seeking public feedback on a proposal to introduce no-fault catastrophic Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance for people

injured in motor vehicle accidents.

If implemented, this expanded CTP insurance scheme would mean people catastrophically injured in motor vehicle accidents in Western Australia could access funding for care and support on a 'no-fault' basis.

Catastrophic injuries are defined as spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, multiple amputations, severe burns or permanent traumatic blindness.

The average cost of lifetime care and support for a person who has been catastrophically injured is estimated to be \$4 million, according to the State Government's Green Paper.

The Green Paper outlines options and their practical implications.

Please submit your feedback on the CTP Green Paper by 24 December. For more information visit the **[Insurance Commission of Western Australia's website](#)** or phone 1800 632 242.

Feedback welcome on complaints process

Disability service users, including family members and carers, are invited to have their say about barriers people face when making complaints about disability services and supports.

The Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) is holding focus groups to learn about the challenges people with disability face when making complaints.

HaDSCO will then examine which processes work and which areas need to be improved.

HaDSCO provides a free, impartial and confidential complaints service to people across Western Australia. It is committed to supporting people with disability, families and carers to resolve complaints about disability service providers.

Focus groups sessions are being arranged to suit individual needs. To take part phone 6551 7620 or email **yoursay@hadsco.wa.gov.au** .