

## Summary of key issues discussed at 18 December 2014, CEO Round Table Committee Meeting



- Present:** Marcus Stafford (Chair), Ron Regan, Julie Waylen, Yvonne Parnell, Justine Colyer, Sue Ash, Matt Burrows, Darren Ginnelly, Paul Coates and Ron Chalmers.
- Apologies:** Marina Re, Tony Vis, Rob Holmes, Judy Hogben and Leanne Pearman
- In attendance:** Robyn McWaldron and Denise Berry (minutes)

### **The CEO Round Table Forum 17 November, Evaluation Summary**

Overall the committee members felt the forum was useful; however there was a need to look at the format for future meetings.

#### **Key issues raised by members for further consideration by the Commission:**

- Not enough open dialogue – presentation rather than open discussion.
- Need more time allocated for interaction/discussion.
- Would like to focus on strategic issues. How will Cockburn Kwinana come on board?
- Housing/accommodation – How does the sector approach the supply side of the housing issue, who do we lobby?
- Need to have industry and government working alongside the sector. Look at strategies to move forward.
- R Chalmers advised the NDIA Housing paper will be released in January 2015.
- The CEO Round Table Committee members to call CEOs to discuss topics for future forums.

### **Disability Research Network for Western Australia – a concept that might turn into reality**

R Chalmers advised:

- The purpose of the Disability Research Network is to support, promote and facilitate disability research and evaluation; and
  - Build capacity within WA for collaborative approaches to applied disability research and evaluation.
  - Support and facilitate translation of research evidence into policy and practice within the disability sector and other human service organisations more broadly.
  - The Commission will facilitate the establishment of the research network but will not retain a leadership or governance role once established. Would like to see families take a lead role in this initiative. Promoting inclusive and participatory research would be a priority.
- The National Research and Data Working Group (that has a reporting line to COAG) recently commissioned an audit of disability research in Australia

conducted by Professor Gwyneth Llewellyn from the Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney.

- The findings following the audit found the current disability research base is not 'fit for purpose'; and
  - There are significant challenges in accessing disability research in Australia "invisible" and lack of free access.
  - Level of collaboration is not good.
  - Research is primarily stand-alone, one-off studies in topics of researcher or organisational interest.
  - A good deal of the research undertaken in the disability field is health focused. (Refer to the attached paper, 'Audit of disability research in Australia', for further details relating to this item.)

## **Eligibility for people over 65 years of age in WA NDIS trial sites**

R Chalmers advised:

Individuals requesting eligibility who are aged 65 years or older as at their request date are not eligible for the NDIS.

The person will be referred to LAC for potential eligibility under the Commission's Guidelines Eligibility Policy for Specialist Disability Services funded or provided by the Disability Services Commission, Updated October 2013 where eligibility for specialist disability services requires onset of disability to occur prior to age 65 years.

In practice, it is most likely that the person would be referred to alternative services, primarily aged care services and support agencies.

Individuals receiving Commission funded or provided supports who are aged 65 years or older as at the relevant trial start date are not eligible for the NDIS.

Existing clients residing in LSW and Cockburn/Kwinana will receive continuity of support through MWC and/or DSOs. Existing clients in Perth Hills will receive continuity for support through LAC (Bayswater) and/or DSOs (using existing contracting mechanisms).

The Intergovernmental Agreement provides that people will continue to receive support up to the level that the person received prior to the trial and will enable the person to achieve similar outcomes to their previous supports. This arrangement applies for the length of the trial.

The assistance provided will aim to support people to live as independently as possible by working with them to reduce their need for supports or to access supports from other systems, where appropriate. Where this occurs, continuity of support will be phased out.

The types of assistance provided through continuity of support will also be flexible in recognising that the assistance that best builds the person's capacity to live independently may be different from the supports the person was previously accessing.

People with significant ongoing needs will be provided with assistance to prevent hardship where this would significantly undermine the person's wellbeing, or social and economic participation.

People who have had their NDIS **eligibility request approved and subsequently turn 65 years** of age, will continue to be full participants until they cease their participation.

A person can choose to continue to receive supports from the NDIS after turning 65 years or can choose to take up an aged care place. A participant under the age of 65 can choose to purchase support from an aged care provider and the NDIS will fully meet these support costs when they are determined as reasonable and necessary.

It may be that a person continues to be eligible but their request for support does not meet the reasonable and necessary criterion that a support is most appropriately WA NDIS My Way funded or provided, and is not more appropriately funded or provided through other service systems.

It is clear in the NDIS Act s29 (1) that a person ceases to be a participant when:

- a) the person dies; or
- b) the person enters a residential care service on a permanent basis, or starts being provided with home care on a permanent basis, and this first occurs only after the person turns 65 years of age; or
- c) the person's status as a participant is revoked under section 30 (ie does not meet residency, disability or early intervention requirements); or
- d) the person notifies the CEO in writing that he or she no longer wishes to be a participant.

"Residential care service" and "home care" have the same meanings as in the Aged Care Act 1997.

#### **Key issues raised by members for further consideration by the Commission:**

- Some committee members expressed concern that the application of the over 65 arrangements would result in a two-tier support arrangement: one for people accessing NDIS support and another for people accessing aged care support.
- M Stafford met with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) to provide information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and to outline the distinguishing features of the WA NDIS My Way model. (Refer to the attached paper, 'National Disability Insurance Scheme: Distinguishing features of the WA NDIS My Way model', provided by M Stafford.)
- NDS State Committee gave support for M Stafford to approach CCI and their endorsement of the WA NDIS My Way as the preferred model.

#### **Home and Community Care (HACC) program and the NDIS in WA**

##### **Key issues raised by members for further consideration by the Commission:**

- UnitingCare West assessment of HACC recipients in Mental Health found 60 per cent will transition to NDIS.
- There is a lack of preparedness for NDIS roll out in some parts of the sector.
- What role does the CEO Round Table Committee have to prepare smaller HACC funded organisations?
- Need to be proactive to prepare organisations.