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Welcome to the June 2014 edition of the Sector e-Bulletin.

This newsletter has been created by the Disability Services Commission to keep you informed about disability sector reforms, projects being undertaken and other relevant information.

## Future submissions and contributions

If you have any 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) .

## WA NDIS My Way update

Driven by the 1 July launch date, the Disability Services Commission has been in overdrive to complete a number of key projects that will facilitate the smooth transition to WA NDIS My Way in the Lower South West, and in Cockburn and Kwinana from July 2015.

Months of legislative work and planning has culminated in the Disability Services Amendment Bill 2014 assenting through State Parliament on 19 June 2014. It was enacted on 24 June 2014 giving the trial the necessary legal framework.

To ensure that everyone who might be eligible is aware of the WA NDIS My Way trial, the Commission is running an information campaign in the Lower South West and regional WA through TV, radio, press and digital platforms.

The two contact points for further information:

- 1800 996 214 – the Commission’s new community engagement number
- [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au)

Everyone can now check their potential eligibility by visiting the [Am I Eligible?](#) webpage or [www.dsc.wa.gov.au/Am\\_I\\_Eligible/](http://www.dsc.wa.gov.au/Am_I_Eligible/) . This online tool provides contact details for disability services in the WA NDIS My Way trial sites. If people live outside these areas, they are provided with contacts for disability services in their area.

### Governance

The **WA NDIS My Way Joint Steering Committee** has met twice since establishing in April this year. The committee will oversee the evaluation and progress of the State’s WA NDIS My Way trial and the Commonwealth’s NDIS NDIA trial in the Perth Hills area. The committee was set up after State and Commonwealth governments signed agreements outlining how the two NDIS models will operate in the trial sites.

The **WA NDIS My Way Reference Group** provides advice and input to the Joint Steering Committee and has met on a monthly basis from the beginning of 2014.

The **WA NDIS My Way Lower South West Local Advisory Group** held its first meeting in Busselton on 12 May. The group is responsible for providing feedback and advice to the WA NDIS My Way reference group about the local trial.

Both the reference and advisory groups comprise of Commission staff, disability and mental health consumers, carers and family members, representatives from the disability sector, mental health and mainstream service providers, and local government and community representatives.

## Supported accommodation transition update

Planning for a transition to non-government service providers is underway for about 80 people currently supported by the Disability Services Commission's Accommodation Services. Individuals, family members and other key decision-makers are engaging with the Commission in the planning process.

According to the Commission's Transition Team, feedback shows that once people have a conversation with the team and understand the process, they become comfortable with making choices and moving forward. Based on this feedback, anyone affected by the process is invited to have a face-to-face discussion with a Transition Team member or other senior Commission staff to ask any questions they may have about the process. To organise a meeting, contact Project Support Officer (Client Transition Project Team) Tess Foote on 6104 9589 or email [Theresa.Foote@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Theresa.Foote@dsc.wa.gov.au).

People undertaking the transition are at various stages of the process. Some have already made a decision about their preferred future service provider and are progressing arrangements to make this happen, while others are still exploring their options. To ensure that each person moving through the process is able to be fully supported by the Transition Team, the Commission has delayed the commencement of planning for the third group of people scheduled to undertake the transition. At the moment, the Transition Team is at capacity with people already in the process. As people gradually complete their transitions, other people will move into the process.

People involved in the process are not being rushed, and decisions and the transition process will take as long as needed. To allow time for people to make choices and be confident that their new service will be sustainable, no time limits are being applied to the process.

Many disability sector organisations are working with individuals, their families and key decision makers in discussing and planning for future supports. This is assisted by the sector which is fully focused on offering high quality, individualised services, allowing people with disability a greater degree of choice and control. Through the transition process, people currently in Commission services will be able to take full advantage of these opportunities and make their own choices about how they live.

In addition, the Independent Information Officer role which commenced in January 2014 will cease at the end of July 2014. There has been limited take-up of the officer's services. If a need for the officer emerges in the future, the Commission will consider funding the position.

For more information, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Accommodation services transition or [www.disability.wa.gov.au/reform1/reform/accommodation-services-transition/](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/reform1/reform/accommodation-services-transition/) or email [dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au).

## Enhanced Quality System starts 1 July

The Disability Services Commission's enhanced Quality System is to be implemented across Western Australia from 1 July in line with the adoption of new National Standards Australia-wide.

To ensure all disability service providers are aware of the requirements of the system, the Commission will offer training and reduce the number of quality evaluation assessments for six months from 1 July.

The Quality System has been adjusted to meet with the National Standards on Disability and will also support National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trial sites.

It will be applied across WA, including in the WA NDIS My Way and the WA NDIS NDIA trial site areas.

For more information visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Disability Service Providers > Quality System or [www.disability.wa.gov.au/disability-service-providers-/for-disability-service-providers/quality-system/](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/disability-service-providers-/for-disability-service-providers/quality-system/) or email [quality@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:quality@dsc.wa.gov.au) .

## Individual plans at the centre of annual reporting

The 2013-2014 annual reporting period marks the culmination of 18 months of procurement reform between the Disability Services Commission and disability service providers.

For the first time, service providers operating under new service agreements will be required to report on individual plans.

To support these changes, the Commission has enhanced the annual client and services data collection (ACDC) system to enable service providers to record their plan data, which is due to the Commission by 4 July.

In addition, the Commission has also developed an information sheet and frequently asked questions and conducted general training, one-on-one training, and small workshops as requested.

For more information, service providers can contact 6104 9559 or email [acdc@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:acdc@dsc.wa.gov.au) . They can also visit [www.dsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dsc.wa.gov.au) > Disability service providers > Reporting requirements or [www.disability.wa.gov.au/disability-service-providers-/for-disability-service-providers/reporting-requirements/](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/disability-service-providers-/for-disability-service-providers/reporting-requirements/) .

## Disability Justice Centre project update

The requirement for a second disability justice centre is now to be reviewed once the first centre is up and running.

The first centre is being developed at a Disability Services Commission site in Lord Street, Caversham.

Legislation to allow the Commission to operate disability justice centres remains in State Parliament.

For more, visit [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Reform > Disability justice centres or [www.disability.wa.gov.au/reform1/reform/disability-justice-centres/](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/reform1/reform/disability-justice-centres/).

## WAFL Count Me In Round kicks off

The Count Me In message will be promoted during round 21 of this year's WA Football League season, in a WA Football Commission (WAFC), Department of Sport and Recreation and Disability Services Commission initiative.

Access and inclusion for everyone will be the focus of all WAFL home games on 16 August. The Fremantle CBC All Abilities team will play a demonstration game at Leederville's Medibank Stadium before the Subiaco vs Claremont senior game.

Fremantle CBC All Abilities, the overall winner at last year's Count Me In Awards, is affiliated with the WA Integrated Football Competition which was established for people with intellectual disability.

One Count Me In Round game will be broadcast on ABC TV and each host club is planning celebrations and entertainment.

Games will be played at Steel Blue Oval (Bassendean), Lathlain Park (Lathlain), Medibank Stadium (Leederville) and Bendigo Bank Stadium (Mandurah).

Entry is free for children aged under 16 and people with Companion Cards and their companions.

Volunteers are welcome to hand out Count Me In merchandise at the games. People interested can email [media@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:media@dsc.wa.gov.au) or phone 9426 9667.

## Subscribing to the Sector e-Bulletin

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Contributions and feedback from agencies are welcome.