

Media Release - 5 June 2012

ACT Budget Leaves People with Disabilities in Limbo

While the ACT budget brings some welcome initiatives in education and housing, there is no growth funding to meet the high level of unmet need for disability services and supports, and no recognition that people cannot wait for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to solve everything. People with disabilities need services and supports now.

As Australia prepares for the landmark NDIS, an opportunity has been missed for the ACT to be visionary and proactive. The NDIS is noted as a major risk in Budget 2012, although no actual funding has been allocated to prepare for it.

“The NDIS will be the biggest thing for people with disabilities since deinstitutionalisation,” said Christina Ryan, General Manager of Advocacy for Inclusion, “and yet the ACT Government has shirked its obligation to Canberrans with disabilities to be ready for its arrival.”

Ms Ryan notes that as federal and state governments tussle over who is responsible, people with disabilities continue to wait. “There must be work done now so that people with disabilities can control their own funding, make their own choices, understand their options, and exercise autonomy in line with the expectations of the Productivity Commission in its vision for the Scheme.”

“The ACT Government is lying back and waiting for the Federal Government to deliver.”

“While a drip feed of footpaths and bus stops is important, people with disabilities actually want real change, real support and real autonomy to be a part of this community — something that this budget has failed to achieve.”

The ACT [Disability Advocacy Network Analysis](#) can be found on the Advocacy for Inclusion website.

improving life for people with disabilities