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January – February 2019 Volume 13, Issue 73

Happy New Year and may 2019 be your best yet with this good news...

NDIA Announces "Very Complex Needs" Pricing Tier

The NDIA announce a new pricing tier for self-care, social and recreational support for Participants with "very complex" support needs. The long overdue new loading will be set at 10.3% and will be effective from February 2019. *The Australian* has reported that around 10% of Participants will be funded for supports at this level. Currently, the prices for self-care, social and recreational support fall into two tiers: standard needs and complex needs, with the high intensity rate set 5.5% higher. This welcome price increase has come off the back of the Independent Pricing Review (IPR)'s recommendations, which found that the existing pricing levels for Participants with complex needs are insufficient to hire appropriately skilled workers or the necessary ongoing training and supervision. Read the **Disability Services Consulting** article by [here](#).

The Official NDIS Announcement on the NDIS web site [here](#).

Participants with more complex support needs require higher skilled staff to deliver some supports which incur higher costs for providers. Recognising this, the current system - with two levels of price controls for assistance with self-care, social and recreational activities - will be replaced with three price levels linked to the skill level of the worker delivering the support. These new arrangements for [complex support provision](#) take effect on 1 February 2019.

The three levels of price controls incorporate:

- Level 1 – standard needs (as per 2018/19 price guide)
- Level 2 – complex needs (a 5.6% loading in alignment with current approach)
- Level 3 – very complex needs (new loading of 10.3%)

In addition, a loading of Temporary Support for Overheads of 2.5 per cent will be applied to Levels 2 and 3.

NDIS Review of Pricing of Therapy services

The Independent Pricing Review (IPR) recommended a two-tiered therapy pricing structure. However, following feedback from the therapists and the sector more broadly, the NDIA undertook further analysis and consultation. As a consequence, the NDIA recommends that — for both therapists and therapy assistants — it tests with providers a pricing structure that reflects the type of therapy service provided; geographic considerations; and whether it is an initial or ongoing consultation. This approach will also have regard to benchmark prices for other comparable Schemes. The potential for deregulation in some markets will also be explored. After these meetings occur with the sector, the NDIA proposes to publish a draft price list for therapy services by 1 March, 2019, with implementation to follow as soon as practical in the first half of 2019. [Read more about the pricing review of therapy services](#).

NDIS Service Providers Cautious Over Complex Needs Pricing Shake-Up

A pricing-arrangement shake up for National Disability Insurance Scheme service providers working with people with complex needs has been met with caution by some providers who say all the details haven't been made clear. **Also there was no mention of more one-to-one support which is equally important as price.** Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

NDIS - THE GOOD NEWS

54,802 Australians accessing supports for the first time. (Now that is really good news. In the past services generally were restricted due to funding program guideline requirements that were inflexible as well as services were limited due to limits to capability or at maximum capacity, and sometimes there were simply no suitable service in the local area. Now with the NDIS this is progressively changing due to market forces and the flexibility of the NDIS funding being linked to the person. Editor)

The NDIS Annual Report 2017-18 Highlights

183,965 Australians are benefiting from the NDIS, including:

- 176,197 people have received individualised plans
- 7,768 children aged 0-6 are receiving support through the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach
- 86,705 New participants who received an approved plan in 2017-18

Participant Impact

- 88% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with the NDIS planning process as either good or very good
- 91% of parents/carers thought that the NDIS helped with their child's development
- 71% of participants aged 25 and over indicated the NDIS has helped them with daily living activities
- 67 per cent indicated that the NDIS had helped them with Choice and Control
- 59 per cent considered the NDIS had helped them with Social, Community and Civic Participation
- 5.4% of participants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 90% increase in the number of participants from last year.

30 June 2018, 97 per cent of participants' plans were approved before the scheduled review date.

(This should improve further, now that the NDIA staffing freeze has been lifted).

More Good News - Federal Government Concedes On Swallowing Issue

Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher announced that the NDIS would step up in the interim and fund swallowing therapies for Participants who are at risk of choking due to their disability. Well, thank goodness for that. Thus (temporarily) concludes one of the most frustrating battlegrounds of the NDIS. Some of you will remember [the article](#) we published in October by Jim Simpson from the NSW Council of Intellectual Disability (CID) which covered this issue in considerable depth. Basically, it all started when the Agency sent a letter to Speech Pathology Australia saying that they would no longer cover the cost of swallowing assessments and support plans. **Historically, this support has been funded by disability services in every state and territory. (The money that was handed over to the NDIS by the states).** The NSW Council for Intellectual Disability and other advocacy groups involved in the campaign deserve a massive congratulations for a huge win. Read the full Disability Services Consulting article [here](#).

Even More Good News - Support Coordinators in Plan Review Meetings

A change to the Provider Toolkit FAQ which stated that Support Coordinators could not be paid to attend plan review meetings, has been updated after media coverage and complaints. It now states "As a Support Coordinator you can assist participants to understand how they will engage and participate in NDIA processes." Read the full Disability Services Consulting article [here](#).

Featured Conference

4 - 5 March 2019

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity.

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. [web site](#)

4 - 5 March 2019

NDS Victorian Conference 2019.

Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne. [Info](#)

Disability News

[Disability Sector Calls For \\$220 Million Industry Investment Fund](#)

Disability service providers are calling on the government to urgently invest \$220 million into the sector, to prevent organisations collapsing under the growing costs of transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

New research from National Disability Services (NDS) revealed three quarters of disability service providers believed the NDIS was not working well, while one in ten admitted they had discussed closing during the past year.

NDS CEO Chris Tanti said the biggest challenge for the sector was unrealistic pricing limits – which set the maximum prices that providers can charge NDIS participants for specific supports. Tanti warned the sector risked market failure unless the government provided more support for providers transitioning to the NDIS.

“[Providers] must [now] invest in new infrastructure and systems at the same time, expand to meet the increased demand in services and absorb greater administrative costs. None of this is factored into NDIS pricing,” Tanti said.

28 per cent of providers making a loss and

58 per cent unable to provide NDIS services at current prices.

Read the full ProBono article [here](#).

Disability News

[NSW Parliamentary Inquiry on the Implementation of the NDIS in NSW](#)

The Legislative Council of the NSW Parliament have published their final Report on the Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales on the 6 December 2018, with the Government Response to the Report is due by the 28 February 2019. The Terms of Reference can be access [here](#). Download the Final Report [here](#).

The report acknowledges that there have been numerous problems with the implementation of the NDIS in NSW and also problems in NSW transfer of services to the NDIS and private sector and the state abandoning being the service provider of last resort.

The report makes twenty three (23) wide ranging recommendations, including the NSW Government investigate the adequacy of the provision of carer support, including respite services, the recognition of carers and their needs under the NDIS, an agreement about jurisdictional lines between the National Disability Insurance Scheme and New South Wales healthcare system as a matter of priority, the NSW Government reinstate its role as a public sector safety net to capture people with disability, particularly those with complex and challenging needs, the NSW Government be established as a service provider of last resort to the National Disability Insurance Scheme to ensure crisis situations are managed appropriately, the NSW Government address service gaps by investing in services and supports for people with disability, regardless of their eligibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, NSW Government provide ongoing funding and support to advocacy organisations beyond 2020, that the National Disability Insurance Agency provide access to funded training for disability employees, including consideration of portable training entitlements, the NDIS develop a strategy to address thin markets, such as in regional, rural and remote areas, review its pricing structure with a view to ensuring disability sector workers and service providers are funded to provide quality services, including funding for case management, administration and supervision, and that the NSW Government establish an Office of a Public Advocate.

Disability News

NDIS provider market booms but confidence weakens

Australia's peak body for non-government disability providers, **National Disability Services**, found the **NDIS is placing intense pressure on service providers** as well as presenting them with opportunities for growth.

NDS's annual survey of over 500 providers found confidence in the NDIS had weakened and the organisation has called for improved pricing, better market information and a national workforce strategy in its 2018 annual [report](#).

"The pressure on service providers ... has arisen not only from the scale and complexity of the reform, but also from under-developed NDIS systems and processes," president Joan McKenna-Kerr and former chief executive Ken Baker write.

It also comes ahead of the release of the **NDS State of the Sector report**, which paints a less than rosy picture.

Community Care Review understands the report has found low levels of collaboration in the sector, major concerns over how the NDIS is working with providers and **administrative burdens that outweigh costings**, as well as concerns about the ability to uphold quality of care if the situation doesn't change. You can access the NDIS 2017-18 annual report [here](#) and the NDS annual report [here](#). Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

Report says NDIS at risk of failing

Almost three quarters of NDIS service providers do not think the NDIS is working well, according to a report which says the scheme is at risk of failing to deliver on its "great promise" to Australians with disability. The **2018 State of the Disability Sector Report**, which surveyed 626 providers around Australia, reflects growing levels of uncertainty about the current environment.

Only one in ten providers give NDIS a thumbs-up (90% don't).

Fifty-five per cent see the operating conditions in the disability sector as worsening. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

Aged & Dementia Care News

Royal Commission into Aged Care to kick off hearings on 18 January

The aged care royal commission will get underway early next year with an opening hearing set for the third week of January. The initial hearing of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety will take place in Adelaide on Friday 18 January. Commissioners Justice Joseph McGrath and Lynelle Briggs recently invited approved aged care providers to make an early submission to the commission detailing any instances of poor care or complaints since 2013. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

Royal commission leads to spike in complaints

Calls to the Aged Care Complaints Commissioner increased by 30 per cent following the announcement of the aged care royal commission, a government committee has heard. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

Keep Up-to-date with issues in aged care and the Royal Commission into Aged Care with a **FREE subscription** to **Australian Ageing Agenda** and **Community Care Review** [here](#).

Disability Issues In The Media

Disability Groups Cautious Over NDIS Independent Assessment Pilot

Disability advocates say they will be closely watching an independent assessments trial to ensure it achieves its stated aims of fairer access and planning decisions for National Disability Insurance Scheme participants, rather than reducing access to the scheme. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

Ended Your NDIS Plan With Money Left? Don't Panic!

Life happens and occasionally NDIS Participants are left with a bulk of their funding unspent at the end of their plan. It may be that you were not sure of what supports you could access, it could be because you had difficulty finding a provider that suited you best. Whatever the reason, we have a recommendation on how to handle it. Read the full Clickability article [here](#).

[NDIS Fraud Squad Makes First Arrest](#)

A man accused of stealing more than \$400,000 from the National Disability Insurance Scheme has been charged by the government's NDIS fraud squad. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[Commission to kick off hearings on 18 January](#)

The aged care royal commission will get underway early next year with an opening hearing set for the third week of January. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

[Government Backflips on DSP Suspension Cut For Prisoners](#)

A campaign to reverse the federal government's reduction to the suspension time of the Disability Support Pension for people in prison has been successful, keeping it at two years rather than 13 weeks. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[Provider CEOs respond to latest details on royal commission](#)

The aged care royal commission is an opportunity to bring policy and services in line with community expectations and what stakeholders are willing to pay, but it mustn't interfere with reforms underway or decisions on others, aged care CEOs tell Australian Ageing Agenda. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

[Disability Advocates Call For NDIS Funding Certainty](#)

Disability groups are demanding assurances that National Disability Insurance Scheme funding is secure and fully covered into the future, after it emerged \$3.9 billion originally promised to the scheme will be redirected to fund drought relief. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[Aged care quality and safety commissioner appointed](#)

The Commonwealth Government has announced health sector leader Janet Anderson as the first commissioner of the aged care sector's new quality regulator. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

[Government's Plan to Cut Disability Support Pension Backfires](#)

The federal government is ditching controversial plans to review the eligibility of 90,000 people on the Disability Support Pension after only a tiny fraction of recipients were found not to qualify for the payment. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[Concerns Raised Over NDIS Barriers for Homeless People With Disability](#)

There are calls for greater National Disability Insurance Scheme accessibility for disadvantaged groups, with an expert warning it is "nearly impossible" for homeless people with disability to get help from the system. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[PM says royal commission will usher in 'culture of respect'](#)

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has warned the nation to "brace itself for some difficult stories" as he revealed the terms of reference for the aged care royal commission. Read the full Australian Aged Care Agenda article [here](#).

[Report on the Inquiry into the Quality of Care in Residential Aged Care Facilities in Australia](#)

The current system of aged care is viewed by some as not working efficiently or to the benefit of the consumer. Residents, their family members and carers have expressed concerns at the complexity of the current residential aged care system. Members of the medical profession are of the view that the funding of aged care services is in need of updating to reflect current best practice. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article [here](#).

Featured Organisation

National Disability Services

<http://www.nds.org.au>

National Disability Services (NDS) is Australia's peak body for non-government disability service organisations. Collectively, our 840 NDS members operate several thousand services for Australians with all types of disability. Members range in size from small support groups to large multi-service organisations.

NDS's purpose is to promote quality service provision and life opportunities for Australians with disability. This is achieved by influencing governments at all levels and providing members with information and advice, networking opportunities and business support.

NDS has a National Secretariat in Canberra and offices in every state and territory. The National Secretariat allows for co-ordination of the respective state and territory bodies at a federal level, while the latter

focus on state issues surrounding disability. The organisation as a whole is governed by a national Board which includes the elected Chair from each state/territory, as well as representatives elected directly by members.

Membership Categories

National Disability Services has two categories of membership: Organisational and Life.

- Organisational Membership is for not-for-profit organisations in the disability field.
- Life members are individuals elected by a general meeting of NDS.

Benefits and Entitlements of NDS membership

Subscriber Categories

National Disability Services has two categories of subscribers: Organisational Associate and Individual Associate

- Organisational Associate is for for-profit and government organisations with an interest in disability issues.
- Individual Associate is for individuals with an interest in disability issues. However, it is not available to members or staff of organisations eligible to be Organisational members of NDS, but who have not taken up such membership.

Benefits and Entitlements of Associates and Individuals

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Disability News

Study to Seek Affordable Transport Model For People With Disability

Making it easier for people with disability to travel will be the focus of new research into the transport challenges posed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The introduction of the NDIS has meant providers no longer receive government subsidies to maintain a fleet of vehicles. **Many providers were now considering charging a per-kilometre fee, which may not be covered by their NDIS plans.**

Leading West Australian disability service providers Rocky Bay, Ability Centre and Nulsen received \$75,000 from the WA Disability Sector Transition Funds to undertake research into sustainable transport models for NDIS participants. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

What is the NDIS without accessible transport?

A big part of the NDIS is obviously the ability to access transport. But is this happening? And will it affect the taxi industry? Ali Warsame explores! Read the full Clickability article [here](#).

The NDIS and taxis

"This is your taxi service. You have no more funds in your NDIS transport. How do you want to proceed?" This is the phone call more and more participants and their families are receiving. It comes as a bolt from the blue because a participant's Plan may be only halfway through. Why is this? Read the full Clickability article [here](#).

Disability News

Respite By Any Other Name

Respite has become a kind of ceaseless issue in the NDIS, with what the Scheme should and should not cover, and to what extent, being a source of constant thinking and rethinking. But a recent report by Carers Australia argues that language and terminology is one of the key factors that determine whether or not respite-like supports are included in a Participant's Plan.

However, while the word might now be considered passé, the actual concept of respite is still alive in the NDIS. The Price Guide makes reference to “Short Term Accommodation and Assistance.” This support is typically designed to achieve the same outcomes as “respite” – to help sustain the informal supports in their life and to support the person’s independence. According to the [Carers Australia report](#), carers and Participants who ask for ‘respite’ in their Planning meeting are often being told that ‘respite’ is not available in the NDIS. Whereas carers and Participants who know to ask for ‘short term accommodation and assistance’ and relate the request to the Participant’s goals (rather than the carer’s), are able to receive respite-like supports. Therefore, outcomes directly relate to the ability of the Participant and carer to ‘speak NDIS.’ Read the full Disability Services Consulting article by Sara Gingold [here](#).

Cares Australia on the NDIS and Respite Care

Carers Australia has [released a Position Paper in relation to access to services under the NDIS which will allow carers to take a break from caring.](#)

“These carers, even those who care for someone getting a package of supports under the NDIS, often get tired, stressed and sick. “When carers burn out, or fear they will burn out, they need a rest to recharge their batteries,” said Ms Ara Cresswell, CEO Carers Australia. “However, respite for carers is not a named service under the NDIS, despite the fact carers often lose their access to other sources of respite support when the person they care for enters into the NDIS. ”

Recent discussions with the NDIA indicate that they understand the continuing need to support carers and will put in train measures to ensure they are not deprived of the support they need on the basis of the language they use. “As part of the NDIS, we understand the importance of providing carers with the opportunity like all families to take a break from time to time - to sustain their capacity to provide informal supports to NDIS participants. **Supports funded in NDIS plans include Short Term Accommodation (STA), in-home supports, community access and personal care – all of which are designed to support participants and reduce the demands on carers,**” said Rob de Luca, CEO of the NDIA.

Scholarships & Fellowships News

Churchill Fellowship

A **Churchill Fellowship** can offer you (as an Australian citizen) the remarkable opportunity to travel overseas to investigate a topic or an issue that you are passionate about. It is for anyone who has **exhausted alternatives within Australia** and would like to see what other countries are doing successfully in a similar space to inspire new ideas, innovation, and excellence.

The high international regard for Churchill Fellowships provides a pathway for Churchill Fellows to access expertise from around the world that is not typically available to everyone, expanding your knowledge and experience for the benefit of Australian society. There is a high level of visibility and credibility associated with being a Churchill Fellow.

No prescribed qualifications are required in order to apply for a Churchill Fellowship, however, the Fellowship is NOT designed to enable applicants to complete tertiary qualifications.

The subject of your proposed project is limitless provided a benefit to Australia is evident and a willingness to share the knowledge gained with Australia is displayed.

Applications Open 1 February 2019

Web site <https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/application-process/how-to-apply/>

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Australia's first national guideline for autism assessment and diagnosis released

Australians with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can expect optimal clinical care, thanks to the release of the nation's first national guideline for the assessment and diagnosis of the developmental condition. Developed by the Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the guideline will improve the diagnostic consistency of autism across the country, an approach the community has requested for a number of years.

Autism CRC Chief Research Officer, Professor Andrew Whitehouse is proud to release the first guideline of its kind within Australia and hopes it will have a positive impact on the estimated 164,000 Australians living with autism. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

Autism CRC

A single online gateway to autism resources, tools and publications. From research papers to resources for the autism community, service providers, educators and clinicians, the Knowledge Centre is full of useful, easy-to-find information and tools.

A National Guideline for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Australia

Register to access the new National Guidelines from this [web page](#).

Books & Publications

AAT NDIS Decision Digest

This digest has been prepared by the Living with Disability Research Centre at La Trobe University. It aims to summarise a selection of Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decisions about the NDIS published in the preceding three months and highlight overarching themes. By drawing out the implications of AAT decisions for interpreting the provisions of the scheme the digest will help to inform scheme participants, supporters and advocates and those involved in its administration. The primary intended audience are people who have some familiarity with the scheme, including Partners in the Community organisations, advocacy organisations, peak bodies and disability service providers. This work is funded by the [Brotherhood of St Laurence](#), to help support the development of a sustainable NDIS that is true to its original purpose. It is intended to be freely available. The authors are [Dr Darren O'Donovan](#), [Professor Christine Bigby](#) and [Professor Jacinta Douglas](#) from the La Trobe University Living with Disability Research Centre. [Sign up to the LiDs newsletter](#)
Download the Digest Spring 2018 Edition (AAT NDIS Decisions) (AAT NDIS Decisions) [here](#).

[Chronic conditions and disability 2015](#)

This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report explores the association between 8 selected chronic conditions and disability in Australia: coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, arthritis and related disorders, back pain and problems, osteoporosis, asthma and emphysema. These conditions are generally long term and persistent, and can lead to gradual deterioration of health, and disability. This report examines disability prevalence and severity; and the types of impairments, limitations and restrictions experienced by those with the selected conditions. Some findings include:- Emphysema (COPD) has the greatest association with disability across all age groups; 1 in 2 people with a selected chronic condition have disability; Access the report [here](#).

[A Guide to Programs for Parenting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disabilities or Developmental Disabilities: Evidence-Based Guidance for Professionals](#)

Edited by Kate Guastaferrero and John R. Lutzker. This book provides a comprehensive outline of the major parent training programs for parents of children with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD), including Autism Spectrum Disorder. Parents or primary caregivers spend the most time with a child, and training them in behaviour management and intervention strategies is critical to improving a child's behaviour, to helping them to learn new skills, and to reduce parental stress. 2018. ISBN: 9781785927355. Jessica Kingsley Publishers listing [here](#).

Supporting independence and function in people living with dementia Series

Endeavouring to bridge the gap between research and practice, these three publications by HammondCare draw on the research evidence on reablement in dementia to provide practical, and evidence-informed reablement programs.

[Reablement - Technical guide](#) The technical guide contains the most detailed outline of the reablement interventions.

Reablement - Sector handbook The sector handbook is written primarily for aged care and service providers, allied health and nursing professionals, managers and care workers.

Reablement - Consumer information booklet This booklet is primarily for the person living with dementia, but is also an overview for family carers, support persons and care workers.

Policies & Guidelines

NDIA Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Strategy

The NDIA has released its [Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Strategy](#). The Strategy describes the NDIA's approach to working with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds as they deliver the NDIS. The vision of the strategy is that people with a disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds participate socially and economically in their communities and expect wellbeing on an equal basis with others in our community. Targets and timelines are not included for enhancing NDIS access. Find an Easy English version [here](#). Download [here](#)

Model guidelines - managing and responding to threats, aggressive behaviour and violence from members of the public

These guidelines have been developed by the NSW Ombudsmen's Office to provide practical guidance to staff on how to deal with members of the public appropriately and safely. They outline what is expected of staff and the people interacting with them, as well as procedures for dealing with people who display threatening, aggressive or violent behaviour. The guidelines are adaptable to a range of situations involving interactions between staff and members of the public. They also aim to support organisations in taking reasonable steps to ensure a safe working environment for their staff. This is the first edition of our model guidelines on this topic. I hope they provide organisations and their staff with meaningful, practical support in the workplace. Guidelines [Model-Guidelines-For-Managing-and-Responding-to-Threats,-Aggressive-Behaviour-and-Violence.pdf](#)

Guide helps care workers recognise, manage arthritis

Arthritis Australia and in-home-care provider Home Instead Senior Care have developed a comprehensive guide for the management and care of people with arthritis. Access the guide [here](#).

Getting started: implementing the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities

The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled presents an unprecedented opportunity for enabling access to printed works for people with print disabilities. The information in the guide is organized as an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), answering questions and providing links for further information. It is meant to be a starting point, a template, available for customization in countries that have ratified or acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article [here](#).

Directories Online

Find a Private Practice Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapy Australia, the professional society, website has a search facility that allows you to search by Areas of Expertise, Region and Approved Provider Status including DVA, Workcover, Medicare **and** NDIS. **Start your search** [here](#).

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Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show with Ross (Your Editor of the Global Gazette)

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Over 450 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show over the 10 years of broadcasting and over 500 episodes. Voted by listener survey "Most Popular Program".

The studio guests coming up include: = Kevin Johnson, Mirrabooka Uke, Kate Lush, Keith Hall, Christina Crofts, Cyclone Rose Carleo, Luke Escombe, The Vegetable Plot, Chris Turner, Adam Jones, Melina Barrett,

Wolf Mail, Ivor SK, Blakhatz, Jack Derwin, Jackel Slide, Girrakool Blues Festival, Urban Guerillas, Rachel Collis, Pat Drummond, Dan Granero, Toongabbie Music Club, Jim Weichman, Gareth Kock & Peter Bonner, Handsome Young Strangers, PHUN Uke, Marcus Holden, Bush Music Club, Ian Hildebrand, Big Rock Records and many more in 2019. **Join our 12,000+ Facebook Likes** or follow our studio guest announcements at <https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm>

Disability News

Report Uncovers Shocking Abuse and Neglect of Adults With Disability

Widespread abuse and neglect of adults with disability has been uncovered by the New South Wales ombudsman, with appalled disability advocates now calling for an independent public advocate to protect vulnerable people. The ombudsman's office responded to 206 reports of alleged abuse and neglect of adults with disability – involving family members, partners, or other members of the community – between August 2015 and October 2018. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

Grant & Fund Raising News

Integrated Carer Support Service: Carer Gateway regional delivery partners

Closing Date & Time: 14 February 2019 - 5:00pm

The Australian Government is inviting applications in an open process to apply to deliver services under the Integrated Carer Support Services from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024.

This grant process will select a new network of Carer Gateway regional delivery partners (RDPs) across Australia to help carers access new and improved local and targeted services including:

- needs assessment and planning;
- in-person and phone-based coaching, counselling and in person peer support;
- information and advice;
- targeted financial support packages with a focus on supporting employment, education, respite access and transport;
- access to emergency crisis support; and
- assistance with navigating relevant, local services available to carers through federal, state and local government and non-government providers, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme, My Aged Care and palliative care.

RDPs will also conduct outreach activities, and link to social, health, education, community and cultural groups, to better understand regional and rural needs.

RDPs are expected to make the greatest contribution to the ICSS outcomes.

Further information [here](#).

Autism Innovation Projects and Utilisation Projects.

Autism CRC is now accepting Expressions of Interest for projects that support our vision to see autistic people empowered to discover and use their diverse strengths and interests.

1 February 2019: Deadline to submit EOIs

11 March: 2019 Deadline to submit Full Project Applications

July 2019: Investment announcements made. All applicants notified of outcomes.

For more information and/or to apply, please visit the [Autism CRC website](#).

Have Your Say - Participate in Research

Working relationships between young people with cognitive disability and support workers

Southern Cross University Research. <https://rcypd.edu.au/>

Our research team is running two surveys to explore working relationships between young people with cognitive disability and support workers. One survey is for young people, and one is for support workers. We would really appreciate your help in promoting the surveys to both young people who use your services, to people who can help bring their attention to the surveys (such as family members), and to support workers. Associate Professor Sally Robinson, Research Lead, Centre for Children and Young People. Southern Cross University.

Please fill out our survey and tell us about what you think helps people to work together. It will take you about 10 minutes to do the survey.

[Click here to take the survey for young people](#)

[Click here to take the survey for support workers](#)

Nurses working with People with Intellectual and Developmental Disability Australia - Online Survey

National survey for nurses working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (both in direct and indirect care).

The research is being carried out by Dr Nathan Wilson from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University in conjunction with Central Queensland University, Edith Cowan University and The Professional Association of Nurses in Intellectual and Developmental Disability Australia.

We are trying to:

- 1) provide a national overview of intellectual and developmental disability nursing,
- 2) describe in more detail and with more confidence exactly what it is that sets this field of nursing apart from other speciality areas,
- 3) unpack with more certainty the diverse range of contexts that intellectual and developmental disability nurses are working within, and
- 4) describe with more accuracy the size and composition of the intellectual and developmental disability nursing workforce in Australia.

The survey will only take 30 minutes, [CLICK HERE](#)

Research & Demographic Reports

[Prevalence of Aging, Dementia, and Multimorbidity in Older Adults With Down Syndrome](#)

Eleonore Bayen, MD, PhD; Katherine L. Possin, PhD; Yingjia Chen, PhD; et al. In this cross-sectional study of a Medicare sample of 878 older individuals with Down syndrome (age range, 45-89 years), nearly half of older individuals with Down syndrome had a diagnosis of dementia after age 65 years. Individuals with Down syndrome had high rates of age-related conditions, especially those with Down syndrome dementia. JAMA Neurol. 2018;75(11):1399-1406. Read the abstract and full article [here](#).

[New drug calms violent patients](#)

Queensland paramedics are leading the world by introducing a new drug, droperidol, to quickly and safely calm violent patients. With backing from the Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF) Australasia, the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has also conducted the world's first comparison of the standard sedative, midazolam, with droperidol in a prehospital setting. QAS found droperidol sedated patients nearly 70 per cent quicker, was three times safer and significantly fewer patients needed additional sedation either in the ambulance or once in hospital in comparison to midazolam. Read the full Virtual Medical Centre article [here](#). [Original research abstract below]

[A Prospective Before and After Study of Droperidol for Prehospital Acute Behavioral Disturbance](#)

Colin B Page, MBChB, FACEM, MMedSci (Clin Epid), Lachlan E. Parker, BN, MHS, Stephen J. Rashford, MBBS, FACEM, Emma Bosley, PGBSc (Hons), PhD, Katherine Z. Isoardi, MBBS, FACEM, Frances E. Williamson, MBBS, FACEM & Geoffrey K. Isbister, MBBS, FACEM, MD. The use of droperidol for acute behavioral disturbance in the prehospital setting is associated with fewer adverse events, a shorter time to sedation, and fewer requirements for additional sedation. Journal Prehospital Emergency Care, Volume 22, 20 Mar 2018- [Issue 6](#), Pages 713-721. Read the abstract [here](#).

[Association of Autism Spectrum Disorder With Prenatal Exposure to Medication Affecting Neurotransmitter Systems](#)

Xinyu Zhou, PhD; Yuqing Zhang, PhD; Toshiaki A. Furukawa, MD; et al. This population-based case-control cohort study of 95 978 individuals from the population of a single health maintenance organization assessed the

effects of prenatal exposure to medications that affect major neurotransmitter systems. Most of the associations were substantially modified when accounting for maternal characteristics. **Higher estimates of autism spectrum disorder risk among the offspring of mothers taking certain medications during pregnancy are most likely not owing to pharmacologic effects of those drugs.** JAMA Psychiatry. Published online October 31, 2018 Read the abstract and full article [here](#).

[MyHealthyCommunities: Patients' out-of-pocket spending on Medicare services 2016–17](#)

This new MyHealthyCommunities report shows variation in the total out-of-pocket costs that patients face in a year for Medicare services delivered outside of the hospital. It shines a spotlight on the costs patients pay for specialist, GP, diagnostic imaging and obstetric services. It includes a new interactive web tool that shows how your local area (SA3) compares with other similar local areas. Access the full Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report [here](#).

[Association of Inflammation and Disability Accrual in Patients With Progressive-Onset Multiple Sclerosis](#)

Jordana Hughes, MD; Vilija Jokubaitis, PhD; Alessandra Lugaresi, PhD; et al. In this longitudinal, prospective cohort study of 1419 patients with progressive-onset multiple sclerosis, superimposed relapse was associated with a reduced likelihood of confirmed disability progression. Time spent on disease-modifying therapy reduced the likelihood of progression in progressive-onset patients with relapse but not in those without relapse. Disease-modifying therapy may prevent relapse-related disability accrual in patients with progressive-onset multiple sclerosis. JAMA Neurol. 2018;75(11):1407-1415. Read the abstract and full article [here](#).

Immune cell breakthrough in schizophrenia

In one of the biggest breakthroughs in schizophrenia research in recent times, Professor Cynthia Shannon Weickert from Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) and UNSW Sydney has identified immune cells in greater amounts in the brains of some people with schizophrenia. The study, published in *Molecular Psychiatry*, has the potential to transform global schizophrenia research and open new avenues for developing targeted immune cell therapies. One in every 100 Australians lives with schizophrenia. No single cause of schizophrenia has been identified, and this has prevented the development of a cure. The current treatments for schizophrenia are designed to suppress symptoms rather than target underlying causes of the disorder. These drugs only partially relieve symptoms and can produce unwanted side effects. Read the full article [here](#).

Featured Course

New eLearning Complex Needs Course

[Course link](#)

Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA) Complex Needs Capable resource is supported by a free eLearning course. This resource was developed to build capacity within the AOD non government sector in working with clients with complex needs such as acquired brain injury, intellectual disability, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and contact with the criminal justice system. There are five modules that focus on cognitive impairment, criminal justice, building practice strategies and service capacity. There is also a [dedicated website](#), where you can find the contents of a CD-ROM with additional resources. Download the resource book [here](#).

Online Course: NDIS Housing for Support Coordinators

NDIS Housing is one of the most complex areas of policy in what is not exactly a simple Scheme. This course is an introduction to the key things that Support Coordinators need to know about this critical area of NDIS policy. Disability Services Consulting course. Cost \$45 per person. Contact: admin@disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au

Online Course: The Support Coordinators' Role in Looking for Housing

Investigating Housing with Support Coordination: you've probably heard of it but what exactly does it look like? In this course, we outline the process for Support Coordinations supporting Participants to explore housing options and test their eligibility for SDA & SIL. Disability Services Consulting course. Cost \$55 per person. Contact: admin@disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au

Webinar Recording: Introduction to NDIS Supported Independent Living (SIL).

This 40 minute webinar is designed for Providers and Managers who are new to Supported Independent Living and are looking to understand the fundamentals of this important but complicated support type. Disability Services Consulting course. Cost \$55 per person. Contact: admin@disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au

Education Resources

Vaccine-preventable diseases

Worldwide, vaccination is a very successful and cost-effective population health intervention. The **Australian Government provides funded vaccines against 17 diseases to eligible people through the National Immunisation Program**. This series of fact sheets provides information about these diseases and their impact in Australia, including the number of cases reported, hospitalisations and deaths.

Vaccination reduces hospitalisations and deaths, especially in the most vulnerable, the very young, people with disability and the very old. ALL human services and support workers need vaccination for their own safety.

- [Fact sheet: Vaccine preventable disease in Australia](#)
- [Fact sheet: Chickenpox](#)
- [Fact sheet: Diphtheria](#)
- [Fact sheet: Hepatitis A](#)
- [Fact sheet: Hepatitis B](#)
- [Fact sheet: Hib](#)
- [Fact sheet: HPV](#)
- [Fact sheet: Influenza](#)
- [Fact sheet: Measles](#)
- [Fact sheet: Meningococcal](#)
- [Fact sheet: Mumps](#)
- [Fact sheet: Pneumococcal](#)
- [Fact sheet: Polio](#)
- [Fact sheet: Rotavirus](#)
- [Fact sheet: Rubella](#)
- [Fact sheet: Shingles](#)
- [Fact sheet: Tetanus in Australia](#)
- [Fact sheet: Vaccine preventable disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
- [Fact sheet: Whooping Cough](#)

Positions Vacant at Global Disability & Health Care Services

Support Workers - Residential Care &/or Disability & /or Mental Health &/or Youth Work *Free phone: 1800 009 292*. Global is a leading staff agency offering a variety of shifts to care workers throughout the greater Sydney region, Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains. Currently we are seeking experienced support workers to work with people who have a disability. Plenty of shifts available. Weekly pay. Choose your own days & shift availability. Must have previous experience in a similar role. Police Check Certificate & Working With Children Clearance Certificate, Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. Ability to communicate effectively with people who have a disability is essential. Must be able to work as part of a team. For more information call 1800 009 292 or forward your resume along with contact details of two referees to: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com

Registered Nurses & Endorsed Enrolled Nurses specialised in disability, mental health and general *Free phone: 1800 009 292*. Global is one of the market leaders in the public, private mental health, disability, and general health fields. Global can offer you plenty of shifts in private and public hospitals, disability, mental health services, dual diagnosis and disability special care areas. An agency founded and run by Registered Nurses, we can assist you in finding work in a variety of locations. Choose the hours and shifts to suit your lifestyle. Must be registered to practice in Australia. Police Check Certificate & Working With Children Clearance Certificate, Up-to-date immunisation health card. Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. **Excellent pay rates. Weekly pays.** Why not forward your resume to Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com or phone to speak to one of our friendly consultants who can help you make that great career move. Free phone: 1800 009 292.

See Current Positions Vacant at <http://globalcaresstaff.com/job-search/>

Conference Calendar

21 - 22 January 2019

NDIS Support Coordination: 2 Day Intensive. Melbourne. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

24 - 25 January 2019

NDIS Support Coordination: 2 Day Intensive. Hobart. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

4 - 5 February 2019

NDIS Support Coordination: 2 Day Intensive. Sydney. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

4 - 6 February 2019

20th Annual Valid: Have A Say. Geelong, Vic. [Info](#)

11 - 12 February 2019

Mental Health: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder & Acute Stress Disorder Seminar. Melbourne. AusMed Education. [Registration.](#)

13 February 2019

Introduction to Person Centred Active Support Seminar. Sydney. Centre for Disability Studies. [Info](#)

14 - 15 February 2019

21st International Conference on Disability Studies. London, UK. [Info](#)

14 - 15 February 2019

Mental Health: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder & Acute Stress Disorder Seminar. Sydney. AusMed Education. [Registration.](#)

18 - 19 February 2019

NDIS Support Coordination: 2 Day Intensive. Brisbane. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

19 February 2019

Seven Steps To Self Direction: for People with Disability & Carers. Wollongong. Resourcing Inclusive Communities. [Info](#)

19 February 2019

Disability Support Workers Conference. Brisbane. [Info](#)

20 February 2019

Seven Steps To Self Direction: for People with Disability & Carers. Ryde-Eastwood Leagues, Sydney. Resourcing Inclusive Communities. [Info](#)

21 February 2019

Seven Steps To Self Direction: for People with Disability & Carers. Souths Merewether, Newcastle. Resourcing Inclusive Communities. [Info](#)

21 - 22 February 2019

NDIS Support Coordination: 2 Day Intensive. Darwin. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

22 - 23 February 2019

Occupational Therapy Australia National Aged Care Symposium. Brisbane Convention Centre. OTA. [Info](#)

25 February 1 March 2019

6th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability. Nadi, Fiji. [Info](#)

28 February - 1 March 2019

Diabetes: Nursing Management Seminar. Sydney. AusMed Education. [Registration](#).

1 - 31 March 2019?

National Epilepsy Awareness Month. Epilepsy Australia. [website](#)

4 - 5 March 2019

NDIS Support Coordination: 2 Day Intensive. Adelaide. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

4 - 5 March 2019

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity. Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. [web site](#)

4 - 5 March 2019

NDS Victorian Conference 2019. Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne. [Info](#)

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