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March – April 2019 Volume 13, Issue 74

National screening system to protect NDIS participants

Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher, said the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Worker Screening Database) Bill 2018*, introduced into the Federal Parliament 13 February 2019, would establish a national database to support a nationally consistent approach to screening people who work with NDIS participants.

The new approach to **NDIS Worker Screening is due to start in July 2019** in all States and Territories, except Western Australia. Western Australia intends to join the national scheme from July 2020.

“Worker screening is a way to check that people who are working, or seek to work, in the NDIS do not pose an unacceptable risk of harm to people with disability,” Mr Fletcher said. “The effect of the Bill will be to establish a nationally consistent worker screening approach following extensive work by the Department of Social Services, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, and State and Territory governments.

Read the Ministers full media release [here](#).

Disability News

Disability Royal Commission motion in parliament

The motion for a Royal Commission into the violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in institutional and residential settings has been passed, however disability advocates are calling for a clear timeline. Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten expressed their support for the Royal Commission before it was subsequently passed through the House of Representatives on the 17 February 2019.

Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

Disability News

No "opt out" for NDIS Participants (article extracts)

The NDIS promises Participants an ordinary life, but the journey to get there is far from an ordinary experience. Lee Archer explores what Participants are forced to share about themselves in order to access the supports they need.

The concept of privacy as a right for consumers and citizens of Australia isn't always awarded the same seriousness for people with disability. For some people, the NDIS planning process and provider engagement has increased the privacy intrusion into their everyday life that **would not be acceptable to most Australians**.

The experience of formulating an 'ordinary life' through the NDIS can be a far cry from an 'ordinary' experience, especially when compared to how Australians access other supports and services. If the NDIA are serious about an 'ordinary life,' then this needs to translate into an ethical approach to data collection. A person's goals, dreams, aspirations and identity are their own, not the NDIA's to grab.

Read the full Lee Archer, Disability Services Consulting article [here](#).

Featured Conference

4 - 5 March 2019

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity.

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

5 - 6 April 2019

South West Sydney Disability Expo.

Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool. 4Community. [Link](#)

8 - 9 May 2019

ATSA Independent Living Expo. Sydney.

Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia. [Info](#)

Disability News

Disability Services Fighting to Stay Afloat

Disability providers are struggling to meet the needs of their clients under the National Disability Insurance Scheme, according to a new report that warns the sustainability of the sector is at risk. The Centre for Social Impact's (CSI) [latest report](#) examined National Disability Services' Annual Market Survey and found the disability sector continued to be characterised by disruption due to the NDIS rollout.

It said the **financial position of many providers was becoming more precarious**, noting that compared to previous years **more providers were operating at a loss** – 28 per cent compared to 21 per cent in 2016.

CSI research director, Associate Professor Gemma Carey, told Pro Bono News **more market gaps would develop if providers dropped out of the scheme because they could not run a sustainable business.**

"The qualitative results suggest that providers are struggling with **high administrative loads which are not covered by NDIS prices**," Carey said. "If organisations close due to financial instability, we are likely to see more market gaps emerge."

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

Disability News

State of the Disability Sector Report 2018

Some Introductory Extracts:- "The NDIS has ushered in a new era for disability service providers. It can be like an ocean; sometimes stormy, with a dangerous undertow; at other times extending our horizons and carrying us forward. The challenge before us is how we navigate this journey of change and collectively create the best possible NDIS."

"Disability service providers support the NDIS reform principles. They welcome the major boost in funding in response to the chronic unmet need for services, the expansion of choice and control for people with disability and their families, the investment in early intervention, and the goal of equitable access to services across Australia. However, the road to reform is rough, and many service providers are under stress. Their sense of uncertainty is exacerbated by frequent process changes, inconsistent advice, new regulations and difficulty getting the market data they need to make growth decisions."

"At the core of NDS's 2018 State of the Disability Sector Report are findings from a survey of 626 service providers. They include providers of all sizes, from every state and territory, that collectively span the full range of disability service provision. **Providers' experiences of the NDIS are mixed, but more than half see the operating conditions in the disability sector as worsening: 80 per cent say that the disability policy environment is uncertain.**"

"Providers are frustrated with NDIS systems and processes. Over the past year, **many have experienced long delays in payments**; the **NDIS portal is not user-friendly**; and the **quality of NDIS plans is uneven**. Providers are

expending unpaid effort on untangling red tape, resolving payment issues and helping people with disability to get plans that properly reflect their needs and goals. All of this imposes costs on providers at a time when they are under pressure to reduce their costs. The impact of very tight NDIS prices on service quality is a significant concern. Some of the prices stretch supervision ratios and don't allow for investment in staff training. They impede the recruitment and retention of experienced and qualified staff. While problems persist, the NDIS will not deliver on its great promise to Australians with disability."

The Centre for Social Impact (partners [University of New South Wales](#), [Swinburne University of Technology](#), [University of Western Australia](#)) National Disability Services' (NDS) Annual Market Survey is a key resource in understanding the state of the Australian disability sector, its challenges and opportunities. A key driver for this research is the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the substantial restructuring of individual organisations and the supply-side of the scheme. This research is intended to identify risks, monitor change and identify any undesirable consequences occurring in the disability sector. While findings have been included in NDS's [State of the Disability Sector Report 2018](#), the Centre for Social Impact is providing a long-form report for the sector.

Access the full report at Analysis & Policy Observatory [here](#).

Disability News

The ATT Tribunal NDIS Case That (Should Have) Stopped the Nation

The job of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) is to smooth out points of complexity and disagreement in the NDIS. [PM* v the NDIA](#) covers a remarkable amount of ground, with decisions you will probably agree with and others you will not; decisions which are groundbreaking and others that are pretty mundane. Both sides would have probably left the hearing feeling like both winners and losers. But for everyone else involved in the NDIS, trying to get their head around what the [reasonable and necessary criteria](#) mean for day-to-day implementation, this case is a winner.

Read Part One the Disability Services Consulting article by Sara Gingold covering "health v The NDIS" [here](#).

Core Supports Precedent Set At AAT

Welcome to Part 2 of our series that delves into [PM* v the NDIA](#), the nearly all encompassing Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) case that attempts to resolve controversial issues in the NDIS. Like its namesake in the center of Earth, Core funding is the base from which everything else is built upon. A Participant can have the best Capital and Capacity Building funding in the country, but if their Core budget does not meet their needs, then it is going to be very hard for them to achieve their goals.

Read Part One the Disability Services Consulting article by Sara Gingold covering "health v The NDIS" [here](#).

Disability Issues In The Media

[Special NDIS support for prisoners, homeless](#)

People living with a disability who are homeless, in jail, dealing with mental health issues or coming out of residential aged care will have access to a new NDIS pathway for people with "complex needs". The rollout of the new Complex Support Needs Pathway follows a 2017 NDIS review sparked by feedback from around 300 participants and providers. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

[Disability Groups Weary as DSP Appeals Skyrocket](#)

Disability advocates are deeply concerned by an almost 80 per cent increase in Disability Support Pension appeals, warning that vulnerable people are being incorrectly forced onto lower benefit payments. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[Home care providers can learn from NDIS](#)

Home aged care providers can take a leaf from the disability service book, where the individual support package model is setting the tone for the future of consumer directed care, an industry conference will hear. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

[Disability Accommodation Reforms to Increase Choice and Control](#)

Reforms to improve Specialist Disability Accommodation services have been welcomed by disability groups, who say it will allow people with disability more choice and control over their accommodation options. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

\$320m funding boost for residential care

The Federal Government has announced residential aged care will receive an additional \$320 million as part of its new \$662 million package to support older Australians. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

Home care wait forces move to residential care, inquiry hears

The long wait for home care packages is forcing some older people to enter residential care prematurely because of carer burn-out and lack of reablement support, the aged care royal commission has heard. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

Government announces \$280m for new home care packages

The federal government has announced an additional 10,000 home care packages as part of a \$662 million commitment to aged care. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

Cameras in aged care bedrooms: providers warned of legal issues

The use of surveillance devices – particularly streaming and video recording devices – is increasing in residential aged care. Many families are installing devices in the bedrooms of relatives who have dementia or other cognitive impairment because of safety concerns around falls or even abuse. But Ms Andritsos argues these families may not have a legal right to do so. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

Questions Raised Over Mental Health Inquiry

The Productivity Commission's inquiry into the economic effects of mental health has been welcomed by the sector, but a peak mental health body is encouraging the government to look beyond economic productivity. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

Increased Support Needed for Entrepreneurs with Disability

Entrepreneurs and business owners with disability need increased support to take their ideas to the next stage, a disability sector leader believes. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

Residents more likely to have a physical disability than psychosocial condition

Most aged care residents are aged 85 or over and 97 per cent of all residents have a disability, according to an Australian Bureau of Statistics report released this week. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

Featured Organisation

SpinalCure Australia

www.spinalcure.org.au

Funding research to cure spinal cord injury.

SpinalCure Australia was founded in 1994 with the sole aim of finding a cure for spinal cord injury through the promotion and funding of medical research. Twenty years ago many still believed that cure to be an impossible dream. However, advances resulting from two decades of research have brought us to a time when a solution to this devastating condition is accepted as inevitable.

Since the beginning SpinalCure has achieved the following:

- Directly raised \$5m for Australian researchers at institutes and universities nationally
- Indirectly raised \$80m through the establishment of government neurotrauma road safety funds
- Organised Australian conferences on SCI research
- Raised the profile of SCI research and other neurological conditions
- Made representation at Federal Government enquiries on stem cell research
- Acted as advisor to NSW Government on 'Making Connections' forum and the late Christopher Reeve's visit to Australia
- Established SpinalCure Fellowships in spinal cord research.

SpinalCure is developing associations internationally with other organisations with aligned goals and works closely with other SCI organisations in Australia such as [SCIA](#) and [SCIN](#).

How to Help. donate, sponsor, bequests, raise funds, etc. Details here <https://www.spinalcure.org.au/how-to-help/>

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Disability News

January 2019 email scam – compliance review

Scammers sent fake NDIS Commission emails with the subject line 'NDIS Commission Compliance Review'. The email asks you to participate in a compliance review and attaches a 'Request for Service Records' form. It instructs the recipient to complete and return the information within 14 days of receipt. The email comes from a [.info] address but official NDIS Commission emails will always come from a [ndiscommission.gov.au] domain.

Do not open the attachment and do not disclose the information requested. If you have inadvertently released this information, please contact us.

See further information [here](#).

Disability News

Report calls for better NDIS market management

A report says gaps in the NDIS marketplace are resulting in unfair and inequitable access to services for people with a disability and calls for better management of the national scheme. It highlights the need for better "market stewardship" to ensure equal access to NDIS services and fair and efficient distribution of resources, but concludes the scheme is currently ill-equipped to detect service gaps and other market deficiencies. The report from the UNSW Centre for Social Impact is the latest in a number of critical reviews calling for better stewardship of the NDIS. The report, National Disability Markets, says while the NDIS promises to improve the lives of more than 400,000 Australians the scheme has been marred by a "range of implementation challenges". Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#). Access the National Disability Markets report [here](#).

Scholarships & Fellowships News

Churchill Fellowship 2019

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

Applications open Friday 1 February 2019

Applications close 5.00pm AEST Tuesday 30 April 2019

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.**

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<http://globalcarestaff.com/job-search/>

New report highlights renting experience of Australians with disability

The report, titled *Disrupted: The consumer experience of renting in Australia*, is the second of its kind commissioned by CHOICE, National Shelter and The National Association of Tenant Organisations (NATO), revealing rental issues with poor quality homes needing repairs, insecure tenancies and struggles with rental affordability. A survey of 1,547 renters revealed 16 percent of people with disability have been served with a no-grounds eviction, compared with nine per cent of the rest of the surveyors who rent. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

Books & Publications

Mental health in Australia: a quick guide

This Australian Parliamentary Library quick guide provides an overview of mental health in Australia, including the prevalence of mental health conditions, the cost of mental illness, government responsibilities, and mental health services available in Australia. Download from Australian Policy Online [here](#).

Defining Autism: A Guide to Brain, Biology, and Behavior

By Emily L. Casanova and Manuel F. Casanova. Drawing on the most up-to-date research on autism, this incisive book argues that while there are different causes and variations of autism, there is in fact one biological autism. By examining developmental and genetic factors and investigating lesser known autism-related syndromes, it clears away misconceptions surrounding this complex condition. 2018. ISBN: 9781785927225 Jessica Kingsley Publishing link [here](#).

Understanding and Treating Self-Injurious Behavior in Autism

Edited by Stephen M. Edelson and Jane Botsford Johnson, Foreword by Temple Grandin. A complete guide to understanding and treating self-injury in autism (ASD). With contributions by top experts, the book explains various causes and forms of self-injury, discusses the treatment options available, including medical, psychiatric and nutritional treatments, and considers the effectiveness of multidisciplinary approaches. 2016, Paperback. ISBN: 978-1-84905-741-7 Jessica Kingsley Publishing link [here](#).

A Guide to Mental Health Issues in Girls and Young Women on the Autism Spectrum

By Dr Judy Eaton. Girls with autism require tailored support for dealing with mental health issues. This book offers interventions specifically for supporting girls with their mental health, by looking at how girls are assessed and diagnosed for autism, and explaining which mental health conditions girls with autism most frequently experience. 2017. ISBN: 9781785920929. Jessica Kingsley Publishing link [here](#).

Mental Health Aspects of Autism and Asperger Syndrome

By Mohammad Ghaziuddin. The first book to address the need for information about psychiatric problems in people with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), *Mental Health Aspects of Autism and Asperger Syndrome* systematically explains the emotional and psychological difficulties that are often encountered with ASDs. The author, an experienced psychiatrist specializing in autism, describes each of the conditions that are commonly seen in autistic children and adults, including schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and tic disorders, and gives sound guidance on their early detection and treatment. 2005, Hardback, ISBN: 978-1-84310-733-0. Jessica Kingsley Publishing link [here](#).

Autism Spectrum Disorder and De-escalation Strategies

A practical guide to positive behavioural interventions for children and young people

by Steve Brown. Discussing a variety of de-escalation and behaviour management strategies, this book offers practical guidance on using non-physical and physical interventions to support children (aged 3-18) on the autism spectrum or with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties, and to keep them and others safe. 2014, Paperback. ISBN: 978-1-84905-503-1. Jessica Kingsley Publishing link [here](#).

Policies & Guidelines

A New Way of Thinking About Quality

Can NDIS Practice Standards actually be kind of cool? Jess explains why the Quality and Safeguarding Commission's Practice Standards are different to anything we have seen before. If you have had a good look at the NDIS Practice Standards you may have noticed that they are quite different from what our sector has seen before. They focus on Participant outcomes instead of services. Read the full Disability Services Consulting article by Jessica Quilty [here](#).

Restrictive Practices Authorisation 2018

This policy outlines principles and requirements for Registered NDIS Providers and Practitioners in NSW when providing behaviour support services that include restrictive practices to persons receiving funded supports through NDIS. Download the Policy [here](#).

Disability Support Pension — follow-on audit

The Disability Support Pension (DSP) provides financial support to working age Australians who have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment that prevents or limits their capacity to engage in employment. In 2016–17, DSP expenditure was \$16.3 billion for about 760 000 DSP recipients. The objective of this audit was to examine if Social Services and Human Services drive improvements in the Disability Support Pension program using data and information from multiple sources. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article [here](#).

NSW Government Response to Parliamentary Inquiry into NDIS Implementation Problems in NSW

Access the NSW Government official reply to the report of the Parliamentary Inquiry [here](#).

Directories Online

Find An Assistive Technology Supplier

The Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia is an association of all the disability aid organisations that can supply a wide range of equipment and supplies to meet the diverse needs of people with a disability.

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 400 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show with 10 years of broadcasting.

The studio guests coming up include: = Kevin Johnson, Alex Smith (Moving Pictures), Chris Turner, Kate Lush, Mic Conway, Marcus Holden, Simon Kinny-Lewis, Cyclone Rose Carleo, Rachel Collis, Keith Hall, Toongabbie Music Club, Garath Kock & Peter Bonner, Harry Brus, Hucker Brown, Christina Crofts, Jim Weichman, Handsome Young Strangers, The Vegus Nerve, PHUN Uke, Ian Hildbrand, Bush Music Club, Traditional Graffiti, Carolyn Packer, The Vegetable Plot, Luke Escombe, David Wells, Pat Drummond, Finn and many more in 2019. **Join our 13,000+**

Facebook Likes or follow our studio guest announcements at

<https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm>

Disability News

Patients with severe paralysis regain use of hands

Six people with severe spinal cord injuries have regained the use of their hands and fingers through a non-invasive spinal stimulation technique. The revolutionary treatment pioneered by Professor Reggie Edgerton and his team at [UCLA](#) enabled patients who had been paralysed for years, to turn doorknobs and open bottles for the first time since sustaining their injuries. This is the largest recovery of the use of hands that has been reported in patients with such severe spinal cord injuries.

Professor Edgerton, who is now also Professor of Spinal Cord Injury at the [University of Technology Sydney \(UTS\)](#), has bought this research to Sydney through [Project Edge](#). Project Edge will be the first comprehensive scientific and clinical research program outside the US. Funding permitting, The UTS Centre for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, where the trials will be held.

Read the full story at SpinalCure Australia web site [here](#).

Program Looks to Halve Electricity Costs for Charities

Charities have the chance to slash their power bills by up to 50 per cent through an energy-efficiency program set to expand across Australia. Electricity company EnergyAustralia's Power for Good program will complete energy audits of participating charities to identify how they can use energy more efficiently, and then install batteries, solar panels, and smart energy management systems for these organisations. As more charities join, EnergyAustralia expects the program will eventually create one of Australia's largest "virtual power plants", whereby thousands of solar and battery systems are linked and managed remotely. Andrew Perry, EnergyAustralia's NextGen executive, said he believed the program could reduce annual electricity bills for charities by up to half. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#)

[A snapshot of Australian giving](#)

The concept of a charitable organisation may need to be reimagined, as governments look to pay for success, donors move away from hand-outs and charity leaders have begun to reposition their organisations as sustainable social enterprises, according to this report. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article [here](#).

[Charity Scams on the Rise in Australia](#)

Australians have lost more than \$320,000 to charity fraud this year as scammers increasingly turn to creating fake charities or impersonating real ones. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

[We all need to be vigilant and report fake charity scams, as they take away from real and reliable NGOs and charities and are a disincentive to future giving by the public. Ask to see their official charity photo ID &/or their fund raising authority. Editor comment]

Opportunity to Participate in Research

SANE Research Survey on Treatment in Schizophrenia

Do you live with, or support someone living with schizophrenia? SANE Australia is conducting a research project [survey](#) and would like to hear about your experiences regarding treatment decisions, access and preferences. The overall aim of this study is to assess the degree of involvement of consumers and carers regarding treatment decision making in the context of schizophrenia spectrum disorders. We are also interested in treatment pathways, experiences, and preferences. This study involves an online survey. It will take approximately **10-20 minutes** to complete, depending on your experiences.

In order to participate in this study, you must meet the following criteria:

- Aged 18 years or older
- Able to read and understand English
- Either:
 - Lived experience of schizophrenia, or a related disorder (schizophreniform disorder, schizoaffective disorder, schizotypal personality disorder, delusional disorder, brief psychotic disorder, substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder, or other psychosis), or
 - Experience as a carer for someone living with schizophrenia or a related disorder
- And Willing and able to give informed consent.

Commence the survey [here](#).

Research & Demographic Reports

[Non-Invasive Activation of Cervical Spinal Networks after Severe Paralysis](#)

Parag Gad, Sujin Lee, Nicholas Terrafranca, Hui Zhong, Amanda Turner, Yury Gerasimenko, and V. Reggie Edgerton. Although a neuromodulation-training effect was observed in every subject tested, further controlled and blinded studies are needed to determine the responsiveness of a larger and broader population of subjects varying in the type, severity, and years post-injury. Journal of Neurotrauma. Volume: 35 Issue 18: September 15, 2018 Read the full abstract [here](#).

A Nationwide Study in Denmark of the Association Between Treated Infections and the Subsequent Risk of Treated Mental Disorders in Children and Adolescents

Ole Köhler-Forsberg, MD; Liselotte Petersen, PhD; Christiane Gasse, PhD; Preben B. Mortensen, DrMedSci; Søren Dalsgaard, PhD; Robert H. Yolken, MD; Ole Mors, PhD; Michael E. Benros, PhD. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online December 5, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.3428 *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online December 5, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.3428. Infections have been associated with increased risks for mental disorders, such as schizophrenia and depression. The objective was to investigate the association between all treated infections since birth and the subsequent risk of development of any treated mental disorder during childhood and adolescence. **The population study included A total of 1,098,930 individuals** (51.3% male) were followed up for 9 620 807.7 person-years until a mean (SD) age of 9.76 years. By studying Danish medical records from more than 1 million individuals, the team found that the risk of developing mental disorders in children (age 18 years or younger) was increased by more than 80% after a hospitalization for severe infection. Although the results cannot prove causality, these findings provide evidence for the involvement of infections and the immune system in the etiology of a wide range of mental disorders in children and adolescents. Access the abstract and article [here](#).

Harbingers of Mental Disease—Infections Associated With an Increased Risk for Neuropsychiatric Illness in Children.

Viviane Labrie, PhD; Lena Brundin, MD, PhD. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online December 5, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.3333. Can infections in childhood trigger the development of neuropsychiatric disease? A study by Köhler-Forsberg et al¹ in this issue of *JAMA Psychiatry* provides strong epidemiologic evidence that severe infections, as well as exposure to anti-infective agents, place children and teenagers at greater risk for developing neuropsychiatric illnesses. By studying Danish medical records from more than 1 million individuals, the team found that the risk of developing mental disorders in children (age 18 years or younger) was increased by more than 80% after a hospitalization for severe infection. Read the Editorial article [here](#).

Association of Dementia With Mortality Among Adults With Down Syndrome Older Than 35 Years

Rosalyn Hithersay, MSc; Carla M. Startin, PhD; Sarah Hamburg, PhD; et al. In a longitudinal study including 211 adults with Down syndrome 36 years and older, 27 people died during follow-up (mean, 28; range, 1-65 months), and dementia was the proximate cause of death in 70% of cases. Crude mortality rates were 5 times higher in those with dementia than those without. *JAMA Neurol*. Published online November 19, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2018.3616 Read the abstract and article [here](#).

Evaluation of Differences in Temporal Synchrony Between Brain Regions in Individuals With Autism and Typical Development

Jace B. King, PhD; Molly B. D. Prigge, PhD; Carolyn K. King, BA; et al. In this cohort study of 52 individuals with autism and 38 typically developing participants and a replication study of 1402 participants in a brain imaging database, increased durations of functional connections in autism were found in both distributed networks and individual brain regions, which were associated with metrics of disease severity. Persistence of brain connectivity in autism may limit the ability to rapidly shift from one brain state to another and contribute to the pathophysiology of autism. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2018;1(7):e184777. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.4777 Read the abstract and article [here](#).

Nutrition across the life stages

The purpose of this Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report is to investigate the adequacy of the Australian diet across various life stages to help inform the evidence-base in relation to nutrition-related health determinants for chronic conditions. It brings together the latest available data from a variety of sources, including some previously published results, and also includes new analysis, such as reporting by socioeconomic status and remoteness. Media release: [New report looks at Australians' diets across different stages of life—and the results aren't good](#)

Clinical Utility of Reinterpreting Previously Reported Genomic Epilepsy Test Results for Pediatric Patients

Jeffrey A. SoRelle, MD; Drew M. Thodeson, MD; Susan Arnold, MD; et al. In this study of reported genetic variants from clinical genomic epilepsy tests, 67 of 185 pediatric patients (36.2%) had variants reclassified. A clinically significant change in the interpretation occurred in 19 of 61 patients (31.1%) with a genetic diagnosis during the 5-year study. The findings of this study suggest that pediatric patients with epilepsy and previous genomic test results should have their test results reinterpreted at least every 2 years and before further genetic testing. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2019;173(1):e182302. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2018.2302. Access the abstract and article [here](#).

Featured Courses

Mental Health eMHPrac Online Training for General Health Workers

This stand-alone module is designed for general health service providers including general practice nurses, peer & community support workers. <https://www.medcast.com.au/courses/97>

Online Course: NDIS Overview for Frontline Staff.

This 30 minute online course guides frontline workers through what's changing, what it will mean for Participants and families and how the NDIS changes the nature of support work, including: What's changing, Support work with NDIS principles, Speaking NDIS language, The new Code of Conduct. Disability Services Consulting course. Cost \$55 per person. Contact: admin@disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au

Online Course: NDIS Overview for Managers

We've distilled the key pieces of policy and data that Managers should be aware of in this 30 minute NDIS overview. There's no denying the NDIS is exceptionally complex, but that's why we are here to simplify it for you. In this course we will guide you through: The principles underpinning the NDIS, What's changing (including individual funding, competition and price caps), Who's who in the NDIS, Adapting your services and quality & safeguarding systems. Disability Services Consulting course. Cost \$55 per person. Contact: admin@disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au

Online Course: NDIS Unpacking the Planning Process

This course will take you through how the planning process works, what happens in a planning meeting, the outcomes the NDIS want to see from plans, a look at how plans are formulated and what to do if things go wrong. Disability Services Consulting course. Cost \$40 per person. Contact: admin@disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au

Education Resources

Anaphylaxis and Treatment of an Anaphylactic Reaction

Anaphylaxis is the most severe type of allergic reaction that can occur and can be potentially life-threatening. So, when any one of the 4,000 people in Australia who experience an anaphylaxis each year have an anaphylactic reaction, it is a medical emergency (ARC 2016). The is AusMed continuing education article is a valuable staff education resource at <https://www.ausmed.com/articles/anaphylaxis/>

Ageing with Asthma

The is an AusMed introduction to asthma <https://www.ausmed.com/articles/ageing-with-asthma/>

Positions Vacant at Global Disability & Health Care Services

Residential Support Workers - Disability & /or Mental Health &/or Youth Work (Casual 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://globalcarestaff.com/job-search/>

Conference Calendar

1 - 31 March 2019?

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

1 March 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Nowra, NSW. [Info](#)

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](#)

5 March 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Kiama, NSW. [Info](#)

5 - 6 March 2019

Quality in Aged Care National Conference. Sydney. Criterion Conferences. [Info](#)

6 March 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Sutherland, NSW. [Info](#)

6 March 2019

Applying a Trauma Informed Approach. Sydney. ACWA / CCWT. [Info](#)

6 - 7 March 2019

Medico Legal Congress. Sydney, Informa. [Info](#)

7 March 2019

Mental Health Recovery Orientated Practice. Sydney. [Info](#).

7 - 8 March 2019

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

8 March 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Campbelltown, NSW. [Info](#)

11 - 17 March 2019

Brain Awareness Week. [website](#)

14 March 2019

Mental Health Inclusive Care Planning. Sydney. [Info](#).

19 March 2019

NDIS Consumers & Carers Accessing the NDIS. Kiama, NSW. [Info](#)

19 - 20 March 2019

i-CAN v5 Facilitator Training, Sydney. Centre for Disability Studies, Uni of Sydney. [Info](#)

20 March 2019

NDIS Consumers & Carers Accessing the NDIS. Campbelltown, NSW. [Info](#)

21 March 2019

World Down Syndrome Day. <http://www.un.org/en/events/downsyndromeday/>

21 March 2019

NDIS Supported Disability Accommodation Forum 2019. Melbourne. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

21 - 22 March 2019

APS College of Educational & Development Psychologists Conference. Hobart. Australian Psychological Society. [Info](#)

25 March 2019

NDIS Supported Disability Accommodation Forum 2019. Brisbane. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

26 March 2019

Purple Day National Epilepsy Awareness. Epilepsy Australia. [website](#)

27 - 28 March 2019

Australian Healthcare Week Expo, Free, International Convention Centre Darling Harbour, Sydney. [Info](#).

28 - 30 March 2019

14th International Conference on Psychiatry: Evidenced Based Therapies. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. [Info](#)

29 March 2019

NDIS Supported Disability Accommodation Forum 2019. Sydney. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

1 April 2019

NDIS Supported Disability Accommodation Forum 2019. Adelaide. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

2 April 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Wollongong, NSW. [Info](#)

2 April 2019

NDIS Supported Disability Accommodation Forum 2019. Perth. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

3 April 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Sydney West, NSW. [Info](#)

5 April 2019

NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Access to NDIS. Goulburn, NSW. [Info](#)

5 - 6 April 2019

South West Sydney Disability Expo. Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool. 4Community. [Link](#)

8 April 2019

NDIS Supported Disability Accommodation Forum 2019. Darwin. Disability Services Consulting. [Info](#)

11 - 14 April 2019

Certificate in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Sancta Sophia College, Camperdown. CBT Australia. [Info](#)

16 April 2019

NDIS Consumers & Carers Accessing the NDIS. Wollongong, NSW. [Info](#)

17 April 2019

NDIS Consumers & Carers Accessing the NDIS. Sydney West, NSW. [Info](#)

24 - 27 April 2019

APS College of Health Psychologists Conference. Adelaide, SA.. Australian Psychological Society. [Info](#)

26 - 27 April 2019

AMP-ED Up! National Amputee Conference, Canberra. [Info](#).

3 May 2019

NDIS Consumers & Carers Accessing the NDIS. Goulburn, NSW. [Info](#)

7 - 8 May 2019

Complex Trauma & Mental Health Workshop. Sydney. ACWA-CCWT. [Info](#)

8 - 9 May 2019

ATSA Independent Living Expo. Sydney. Assistive Technology Suppliers Australia. [Info](#)

To list your conferences on our Global Conference Calendar
– email details to GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com

Publisher

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