

# Global Gazette Disability

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**May – June 2019 Volume 13, Issue 75**

## **NDIS risks failure without urgent intervention**

Australia's disability service providers warned that many are at risk of failure unless the government acts to fix ongoing problems with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

NDS President, Joan McKenna-Kerr, said providers launched a paid media campaign in the lead-up to Federal Budget to call on the government and opposition to deliver on their bipartisan promise to make the NDIS a great social reform. Ms McKenna-Kerr warned that many not-for-profit disability service providers are already being forced to cut services as a direct result of systemic flaws in the way the NDIS is being implemented. "In particular, we are finding providers reluctantly withdrawing one-on-one care services because the delivery models are just not viable," she said. "This is leaving those participants in the scheme with the most profound challenges, finding it harder to find the care they need."

Providers are calling for a **new independent pricing body, urgent improvements to the way the NDIS is administered, less red tape, better NDIS planning, market failure safeguards** and a **National Workforce Strategy** to support the sector in delivering the scheme.

NDS Acting CEO, David Moody, **warned that if the sector experiences market failure, the NDIS could collapse**, leaving almost half a million Australians with disability without services.

According to research conducted by NDS:

- **1 in 10 disability service providers have discussed closing**
- **28% of service providers made a loss or deficit**; and
- **more than half (54%) of Australian disability providers say they will have to reduce the quality of services under the current pricing model.**

"Our members helped lead the campaign for the NDIS and we continue to support it 100 per cent as a vital reform for Australians with disability," Mr Moody said. "However as a direct result of the way the NDIS is being administered, more than half of our members have foreshadowed they will reduce the quality of services unless NDIS pricing better reflects the cost of actually delivering services." Check out the full article [here](#).

Check out the campaign web site <https://deliverthepromise.org.au/>

## **[Providers slam government's NDIS workforce strategy](#)**

Australia's peak disability services body is deeply disappointed with the federal government's plan to grow the National Disability Insurance Scheme workforce, arguing much of the strategy is just a rehash of old news. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **[Advocates ask, why are NDIS funds not being used to fix the scheme?](#)**

Disability groups have welcomed the federal government's \$528 million pledge for the disability royal commission but say a **multi-billion dollar underspend of National Disability Insurance Scheme funds in the budget is a**

“**national disgrace**”. Matthew Bowden, co-CEO of People with Disability Australia, said this budget funding was very much welcomed, noting that a variety of supports were needed to allow people to fully participate. The almost \$4 billion underspend of NDIS funds is a national disgrace, and we completely oppose the spending of these funds anywhere but on people with disability,” he said. “People with disability come to us every day in despair because they can’t access the NDIS, their funding packages have been cut or they aren’t getting the supports they urgently need. **“Where is this money going, if it’s not being spent making sure that people with disability can have the supports they need for an equal life?”** Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## Disability News

### How can we improve the NDIS?

The NDIS has helped lots of people. But there have been problems with it that have been frustrating and hurtful for people with intellectual disability. Here is how the NDIS can do better. Our NSW CID Members frequently tell us that there is too much red tape, too many steps, too much paperwork and too many workers who don’t know what they are doing. People with intellectual disability make up about 60 percent of NDIS participants. The scheme needs to improve how it reaches out to and meets the needs of such a substantial group of its participants.

Read the **NSW Council for Intellectual Disability** Position Statement [here](#).

## Disability News

### NDIS A suite of changes to pricing is being introduced

This Newsflash details four important changes to ensure service providers are able to provide high quality supports to NDIS participants:

- Increased prices for therapy services following finalisation of the Pricing Review of Therapy Services
- Increased prices for attendant care supports
- A new Temporary Transformation Payment to see providers through this period of transition
- An NDIS Demand Map and Transition Funding to help providers plan and grow their business

With the establishment of the NDIA Pricing Reference Group (PRG), the NDIA’s approach to pricing combines an increased rigour in decision making through consultation with providers and adaptation to market pressures. One of the ways this is evident is the NDIA’s use of market reviews, which feed into the Annual Price Review cycle.

The NDIA will introduce significant price limit increases to therapy and base attendant care supports effective 1 July 2019.

The Federal Government has today announced an increase to price limits for therapy, attendant care and community participation under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), effective 1 July 2019. These price increases will inject more than \$850 million into the NDIS market in 2019-20 so that NDIS participants can access the quality and innovative services and supports that meet their individual needs.

Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher, and Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services, Sarah Henderson said the new prices include a minimum increase of almost \$11 per hour for therapists and up to a 15.4 percent price increase to the base limit for attendant care and community participation. Read full announcement [here](#).

[here](#).

## Disability News

### NDIA CEO Robert De Luca QUILTS

The NDIA board was informed of Robert De Luca’s immediate exit on Tuesday 30 April, and quickly moved to appoint deputy CEO Vicki Rundle as acting head of the organisation that manages the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The appointment of a new CEO will be decided by the incoming government following the federal election on 18 May.

De Luca quit the NDIA to become CEO of Zenitas Healthcare – a NDIS provider which lists the scheme as its - second-largest revenue source – and it is understood his immediate departure was to avoid a conflict of interest.

## Featured Conference

**8 - 9 May 2019**

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

**14 May 2019**

**National Australian Network on Disability Conference. RACV City Club Melbourne.** [Info](#)

**15 - 16 May 2019**

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

**7 - 8 June 2019**

**Gold Coast Disability Expo. Gold Coast Event Centre, Bundal.** 4Community. [Link](#)

## Disability & Social Housing News

### Understanding Specialist Disability Accommodation funding

This Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute study examined the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) program and the attitudes of industry to investment and participation in that program. It questioned developers, investors, housing providers, prospective tenants and governments on how the SDA program will generate new supply that meets the needs and preferences of people with disability. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article and link to the report [here](#).

### Specialist Disability Accommodation supply in Australia

This Social Ventures Australia and the Summer Foundation report provides a snapshot on how the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) market is responding to the opportunity to expand housing supply for people with disability. The report's finding, that more than 1,500 new SDA places are in the construction pipeline, should be welcomed by people with disability, governments and the broader supply market. Access the Summer Foundation & Social Ventures Australia report [here](#).

### Rental affordability snapshot 2019

Every year, Anglicare Australia tests if it is possible for people on low incomes to rent a home in the private market. We do this by taking a snapshot of the thousands of properties listed for rent on realestate.com.au. We test whether each property is affordable and suitable for people low incomes.

This year we surveyed over 69,000 rental listings across Australia and found that there is a chronic shortage of affordable rentals across Australia: **only 317 out of 69,000 rentals were affordable for a single person on the Disability Support Pension (i.e. 0.002%)** Access the Anglicare Australia report [here](#).

### [Estimating need and costs of social and affordable housing delivery](#)

This University of NSW: City Futures Research Centre report presents the findings of a research project commissioned by CHIA NSW and Homelessness NSW to provide estimates of the social and affordable housing need for Australia by sub-region and the likely costs to government of delivering housing to meet these needs over the period to 2036. The unmet social housing need is estimated to be 437,000 while the unmet affordable housing need is estimated to be 213,000.

### People with disability want budget investment of \$2.7 billion to solve housing crisis

PWDA, with the [Summer Foundation](#), [National Shelter](#), and the [Australian Network for Universal Housing Design](#), have developed a package to address the housing crisis for many people with disability. The package includes measures to make more homes accessible, to increase the supply of affordable and social housing, and reform the Specialist Disability Accommodation funding in the NDIS. People with disability are being forced into group homes and aged care, can't find an accessible place to live, and are struggling to afford a home. Each of the measures in this package will work to solve these problems. Access the full pre-Budget submission [here](#).

## **[A conceptual analysis of social housing as infrastructure](#)**

This **Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute** study into the role of social housing as essential infrastructure assessed evaluation tools and techniques needed to enable investment by government. Cost-benefit analyses and business case preparation provide a means to quantify productivity, while the broader range of societal outcomes also needs to be considered. Access the Analysis Policy Observatory report [here](#).

## **Housing the Other 94% of NDIS Recipients**

The community housing sector has the opportunity to provide greater housing support for the 94 per cent of National Disability Insurance Scheme recipients not eligible for Specialist Disability Accommodation, a housing conference has heard. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **National social housing survey 2018: key results**

This Institute of Health and Welfare report presents key results from the 2018 National Social Housing Survey. It looks at tenants' satisfaction with their social housing and how this has changed over time, and the differences between states and territories. For the first time, it examines how different characteristics relate to tenant satisfaction levels, after accounting for other factors. The factors examined include housing program, household composition and demographics, and the location and condition of tenants' homes. Access the report [here](#).

## **[Australia's largest social bond tackles affordable housing shortage](#)**

Community housing providers believe Australia is set for a "new dawn" in social and affordable housing, following the launch of a \$315 million social bond for the sector. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **Disability News**

## **Simpler process to improve NDIS Assistive Technology**

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants will find it easier to replace their Assistive Technology (AT) to enable them to continue to pursue their goals following the introduction of simpler processes. Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher said replacement for standard AT items will be quickly assessed by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) without needing a full re-assessment, and will only require one quote for items valued between \$1,500 and \$15,000. Read the full Freedom2Live article [here](#).

## **Disability Issues In The Media**

## **Advocacy groups struggle amid growing NDIS waiting lists**

Advocacy services are being swamped with people needing help appealing their National Disability Insurance Scheme plans, disability groups have warned in the wake of new funding to the sector. The federal government announced a \$5.3 million funding boost for NDIS appeals providers, who help people with disability challenge plan decisions in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher said the government was now providing more than \$10 million to over 40 NDIS appeals advocacy agencies across all states and territories. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **NDIS legal bill hitting \$10m a year**

The agency running the \$22 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme is spending up to \$10 million a year on barristers and legal services in a bid to arrest the dramatic rise in the number of people successfully appealing for more money in their support packages or trying to get into the scheme. *The Australian* understands the National Disability Insurance Agency, which has lost almost 40 per cent of the 260 cases resolved so far. Read the full article by Rick Morton for *The Australian* [here](#).

## **[Culturally Diverse People With Disability Struggling to Engage With NDIS](#)**

People with disability from non-English speaking backgrounds are accessing disability services up to two-thirds less than Australian-born people despite having similar rates of disability, according to a new report. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **[Disability providers want a 'please explain' on missing \\$1.6 billion](#)**

Disability service providers have reacted with disappointment to the government's workforce strategy and are calling for a please explain on \$1.6 billion missing from NDIS funding in the federal budget. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

### [Home care sector faces tough times](#)

The home care sector has experienced a more than six per cent decline in profitability over the last year as providers continue to accumulate a growing mountain of unspent funds, a key financial report has found. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

### **Action plan moving young people with disability out of aged care**

A new national action plan will aim to halve the number of young people with disability entering residential aged care within six years. Currently, more than 50 younger Australians with disability or high needs are moved into residential aged care each week, totalling 6000 people nationally, a situation Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher describes as “unacceptable”. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

### [Budget disappoints home care stakeholders](#)

The federal budget has got a lukewarm response from aged care providers who have welcomed cash to improve the quality of the home care system but say the government has failed to address the ongoing problem of home care wait times. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

### [Study debunks ‘one size fits all’ approach to home care](#)

Home and community care providers and policy makers could improve their service provision by better profiling and targeting groups of consumers, a study suggests. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

### [Residents are inactive 85 per cent of the day](#)

Aged care residents are sedentary for prolonged periods of time and only participate in physical activity for short bouts, new research finds. Read the full Australian Aged Care Agenda article [here](#).

### **Nation’s first early intervention blueprint to maximise services**

Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) has been commissioned by the Government to deliver Australia’s first national early intervention blueprint for young children with disability or development delay. Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher says the \$300,000 investment will maximise early intervention services to 2030 and help young people with disability go on to lead fuller, more engaged lives. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

### [Figures show more waiting for home care packages](#)

The latest government figures show the number of people waiting for a home care package has increased to more than 108,000. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

### [Committee told more detail required in proposal to publish staffing ratios](#)

Publishing staffing ratios with relevant data and context is required so people seeking aged care can make informed decisions, submissions into the recent staffing ratio inquiry shows. Read the full Australian Aged Care Agenda 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

### **Revenue Revisited: 5 Ways SIL Quotes Get It Wrong**

In this article on enhancing organisational revenue and Participant outcomes, Brent Woolgar details the ways so many organisations are being hamstrung by leaving money on the (SIL quoting) table. Read the full Disability Services Consulting article [here](#).

## Scholarships & Fellowships News

### **Fulbright Scholarships**

**Applications close 15 July 2019**

<https://www.fulbright.org.au/applicants/australian-applicants/>

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission offers scholarships to Australian citizens across all career stages. Awardees take part in an academic and cultural exchange, pursuing research or study at a U.S. institution, experiencing life abroad and bringing back their knowledge and experience to share with their communities in Australia.

A Fulbright award is more than a scholarship – it is, in the words of Senator Fulbright, a means of fostering “leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures... It is a modest program with an immodest aim – the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilised, rational and humane than the empty system of power of the past.”

The categories are:

**Postgraduate:** Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarships allow postgraduate students undertaking their Australian PhD to conduct research in the U.S. for 3 months up to 2 years.

**or**

Supports enrollment in a graduate degree program (e.g. a Master's) for 3 months up to two-years.

**Postdoctoral:** Fulbright Postdoctoral scholarships allow individuals to undertake postdoctoral research in the U.S. for 3-10 months, who have completed their PhD in the past 5 years or are in the last year of completion.

**Scholar:** Fulbright Scholar Awards are for academics (at Associate or full Professorial level) and mid-career professionals (with an undergraduate qualification and minimum 10 years work experience) to undertake research and/or training in the United States for 3-4 months.

**Distinguished Chair:** The Fulbright Distinguished Chair award is for an exceptional individual at professorial level to carry out research in the United States for up to 6 months.

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## **Disability News**

### **Potentially preventable hospitalisations in Australia by small geographic areas**

This Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report provides information on 22 conditions for which hospitalisation may have been prevented by timely and appropriate provision of primary or community-based health care by Primary Health Network (PHN) and Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3). These include chronic, acute and vaccine-preventable conditions.

Vaccine-preventable conditions nationally the hospitalisation rates was rate was 213 per 100,000

**Attention:** Have your clients had their influenza and pneumonia immunization injection yet ready for this winter.

## **Books & Publications**

### **Helping Children to Improve Their Gross Motor Skills. The Stepping Stones Curriculum.**

Rachel White. This step-by-step programme enables children and young people with motor coordination difficulties to master basic skills and develop their sporting ability. Activity worksheets provide instruction on how to complete incremental exercises building up to the achievement of a specific activity, such as climbing, riding a bike and playing football. 2017. ISBN: 9781785922794. Jessica Kingsley Publishers listing [here](#).

**NSW Mental Health Rights Manual**, which continues to empower and inform people looking to better navigate the mental health and related service systems in NSW. MHCC has presented a new additional chapter "Your rights and the NDIS. This new chapter focuses on the rights of people living with psychosocial disability in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It also provides information and answers to a diversity of questions. The eight new sections outline the objectives and functions of the NDIS and the services and supports that the scheme can offer. It also describes the rules and regulations, and the standards and guidelines that underpin the legal framework. It helps people understand their rights and ensure that they are being upheld and describes the roles and responsibilities that make the NDIS operational. The [new chapter](#) of the **Mental Health Rights Manual** compliments other work achieved by MHCC including the [reimagine.today](#) website.

### **Developing and maintaining person centred active support**

by Christine Bigby, Jacinta Douglas, Emma Bould Living with Disability Research Centre (LaTrobe). A demonstration project in supported accommodation for people with neurotrauma: final report. The consistent use of Active Support by staff in supported accommodation services has been shown to lead to better quality of life outcomes for people with intellectual disability regardless of the level of disability (Bigby & Beadle-Brown, 2016). Active Support gives prominence to staff enabling service users to be engaged in meaningful activity and social relationships. It also provides the foundations for positive behaviour support. Download the report from [here](#).

### **Observing and Developing Schematic Behaviour in Young Children**

A Professional's Guide for Supporting Children's Learning, Play and Development. Tamsin Grimmer. Observing and understanding schematic behaviour confidently is vital for anyone working with or looking after young children. This guide explains what schemas are, stripping back the technical language often used to describe them, and how to interpret and extend schematic behaviour to benefit the child. It looks specifically at 13 different schemas, such as connection, rotation and transportation, and includes case studies, interpretation of the observations and practical ideas for how to use this information to aid children's learning, development and play. Making schemas and schematic behaviour more understandable, this book will give early years practitioners and parents the confidence to identify schemas and plan future learning opportunities to support children based on this knowledge. 2017. ISBN: 9781785921797. . Jessica Kingsley Publishers listing [here](#).

## **Mental Health Matters: Future Investment Priorities for NSW Report.**

The report recommends targeted investment which would improve the lives of people living with mental health conditions and would be cost-effective by driving down escalating presentations to emergency departments. Specifically, the report recommends additional funding of \$180 million for HASI and CLS type supports, \$88 million to establish 600 step-up, step-down places and improved community access to mental health services through community mental health hubs. Access the Mental Health Coordinating Council report [here](#).

## **Mental Health Safety & Monitoring Review Report.**

MHCC considered it timely to examine the function and effectiveness of safeguarding and monitoring mechanisms across community-managed mental health services. With funding from NSW Health, Mental Health Branch, MHCC set out to investigate whether there is a need for the sector to have further or changed safeguarding and monitoring in the light of transforming service delivery environment. The project undertook analysis, informed by consultations and a Landscape Review, in order to outline the national and NSW policy context and document the safeguarding and monitoring mechanisms that apply to CMOs providing psychosocial supports in NSW. The project sought to identify the implications of national and state reforms for mental health CMOs in NSW that are registered NDIS providers, as well as for those who are not. Furthermore, to explore and document examples of international and other states' models of safeguarding and monitoring for CMOs providing psychosocial supports; and draw tentative conclusions to be tested through further research and consultation. The Summary and Landscape Review and areas for future action can be read [here](#).

## **Policies & Guidelines**

### **Aged Care: Single quality framework: focus on consumers**

The Australian Government is committed to high quality care for older Australians and considers the health, safety and welfare of aged care recipients a high priority. As part of reforms to the aged care system, the government is developing an end-to-end, market-based system with the sector where the consumer drives quality. This includes a Single Aged Care Quality Framework. There are currently four sets of quality standards depending on the type of aged care service being delivered. The new Standards are now set in law, and providers will be assessed and monitored against these new standards from 1 July 2019. These will be replaced by the new [Aged Care Quality Standards](#).

### **Policy Guidelines on supported decision-making in Aged & Dementia Care**

A team of researchers from the University of Sydney Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre worked with industry and consumer partners to develop the 'Policy Guidelines Document' and a range of other resources to assist in supported decision-making in the context of dementia. Download here [Supported Decision-Making in Aged Care- A Policy Development document for Aged Care Providers in Australia](#)

### **[New rules for using restraints in aged care](#)**

Residential aged care providers need to ensure assessment by an approved person and document alternative options tried before physical or chemical restraint can be used from 1 July. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

### **Guidelines for dealing with youth complaints**

Young people have a voice that should be heard and opinions that should be considered. These guidelines are to help agencies to more effectively engage with young people. [YouthGuidelinesBooklet.pdf](#)

### **[New self-assessment resource to measure against incoming standards](#)**

The aged care sector's new independent regulator has launched a tool for providers to understand and assess their performance against the new quality standards. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

## **Directories Online**

The [Disability Advocacy Finder](#) is an online tool to help find NDIS Appeals providers and disability advocacy agencies across Australia.

The Department of Social Services funds organisations through the [National Disability Advocacy Program](#) (NDAP) to provide advocacy support services to assist participants when engaging in NDIA processes. NDAP provides people with disability with access to effective disability advocacy. Advocates work with people with disability to develop their personal skills and self-confidence to enable them to advocate on their own behalf; and educate people with disability about their rights.



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**Over 520 Australian artistes** have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show over the **10 years of broadcasting** with **1560 hours of radio** and **12,480 songs**. **Always 100% All Australian.**

**The studio guests coming up include:** = Kevin Johnson, Simon Kinny-Lewis, Finn Rhythm & Blues Band, Mick Hart, Glenn Cardier, Hucker Brown, Christina Crofts, Jim Weichmann, Handsome Young Strangers, Rose Carleo Band, The Vegus Nerves, PHUN Uke, Ian Hildebrand, Bush Music Club, Traditional Graffiti, Carolyn Packer, Mic Conway National Junk Band, The Vegetable Plot, Luke Escombe, David Wells, Pat Drummond, Oz Manouche Festival, The Water Runners, Franky Valentyn, Ivor SK, Gwynn Ashton and many more in 2019-20.

**Join our 13,900+ Facebook Likes** or follow our studio guest announcements at

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

## Disability News

### National Multilingual Disability Hub

The Online Multilingual Disability Hub provides relevant and accessible information on disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in 15 languages.

Access here <https://www.multilingualdisabilityhub.info/language/>

## Grant & Fund Raising News

### Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)

National Information Program Funding Round 2019-2022

**Closing date and time: 11:00 PM AEST on Friday, 10 May 2019**

This grant opportunity funds projects to increase the accessibility, quality and consistency of information about disability types and service and support options available to people with a disability, carers and families, services and support organisations, and identified cohorts. This grant opportunity contributes to the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) component which funds innovative ways to increase the independence, social and community participation of all people with a disability, including NDIS participants and non-participants. Access grant information [here](#).

### NDIS Grant: Exceptionally Complex Support Needs Program

The Program supports NDIA's intention to grow sector capability to ensure participants of the NDIS with exceptionally complex support needs are provided with professional, evidence based supports that aid to stabilise behaviours and to support and promote independence. \$10M is available nationally over two years to establish an expert national network of support coordination services to this small group of participants including \$1.5M for NSW/ACT. This group of participants can include people who are exiting the justice system or an acute rehabilitation setting. Applications must be submitted by 1 May. [More info](#)

### **[Prevalence and Severity of Alzheimer Disease in Individuals With Down Syndrome](#)**

Michael S. Rafii, MD, PhD; Stephanie L. Santoro, MD. The median life expectancy for a child with Down syndrome (DS) born in the 1950s was less than 10 years of age, with congenital heart defects being the main cause of death.<sup>1</sup> With advances in medical care and improvements in the overall health of individuals with DS, life expectancy has increased dramatically; for children with DS born in 2010, median life expectancy is estimated to be 65 years.<sup>2</sup> However, along with this longer lifespan comes the prospect of a considerable increase in the risk of developing dementia associated with Alzheimer disease (AD), with a prevalence of nearly 80% for those with DS who are older than 65 years. Read the full Editorial article [here](#).

### **[Long term Risk of Neuropsychiatric Disease After Exposure to Infection In Utero \(Autism & depression\)](#)**

Benjamin J. S. al-Haddad, MD, MSc, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Bo Jacobsson, MD, PhD<sup>2,3</sup>; Shilpi Chabra, MD<sup>1</sup>; et al. In this Swedish population-based cohort study of 1,791,520 children born between 1973 and 2014 (up to 41 years), exposure to infection, including urinary tract infection, in pregnancy significantly increased the risk for autism spectrum disorder and depression, but not bipolar or psychosis, during the child's life. These results emphasize the importance of avoiding infections during pregnancy, which may impart subtle fetal brain injuries contributing to development of autism and depression. JAMA Psychiatry. Published online March 6, 2019. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2019.0029. Access abstract and article [here](#).

### **[Patterns of Nonsocial and Social Cognitive Functioning in Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis](#)**

Tjasa Velikonja, PhD; Anne-Kathrin Fett, PhD; Eva Velthorst, PhD. In this systematic review and meta-analysis of 75 studies comprising 3361 individuals with autism spectrum disorder and 5344 neurotypical adults, those with autism spectrum disorder showed the greatest impairments in theory of mind and emotion perception and processing, followed by processing speed and verbal learning and memory. The severity of impairments across domains of nonsocial and social cognition in adults with autism spectrum disorder identified highlight key intervention targets and suggest significant implications for clinical practice. JAMA Psychiatry. Published online January 2, 2019. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.3645. Access the abstract and article from [here](#).

### **[Mental health services in Australia: in brief 2018](#)**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released Mental health services: In brief 2018 provides an overview of data about the national response of the health and welfare system to the mental health care needs of Australians. Access the full Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report [here](#).

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

Magdalena Janecka, PhD; Arad Kodesh, MD; Stephen Z. Levine, PhD; Shari I. Lusskin, MD; Alexander Viktorin, PhD; Rayees Rahman, BS; Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD; Avner Schlessinger, PhD; Sven Sandin, PhD; Abraham Reichenberg, PhD. 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. 2018;75(12):1217-1224. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.2728. Access the abstract and article [here](#).

### **[Sufficient exercise for Australians living with dementia in residential aged care facilities is lacking: an exploration of policy incoherence](#)**

Lindsay Brett, Paul Stapley, Shahla Meedya and Victoria Traynor, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. Oct 2018. As the population ages, the demand on health care services will continue to rise. The ways in which health and social care services are funded and delivered to older individuals need to be addressed to meet future demands. Access the journal article from Analysis & Policy Observatory [here](#).

### **[Spinal cord injury Australia, 2015–16](#)**

In 2015–16, 253 newly incident cases of traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI) due to external causes were reported to the Australian Spinal Cord Injury Register. Males accounted for 80% of traumatic SCI cases. Almost half (48%) of the traumatic SCI cases sustained in 2015–16 were due to a fall. A further 39% were due to a land transport crash. Access the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare data and reports [here](#).

## [Association of Maternal Prenatal Vitamin Use With Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder Recurrence in Young Siblings](#)

Rebecca J. Schmidt, PhD; Ana-Maria Iosif, PhD; Elizabeth Guerrero Angel, MS; et al. In this cohort study of 241 younger siblings of children with autism, the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder was 14.1% in children whose mothers took prenatal vitamins in the first month of pregnancy compared with 32.7% in children whose mothers did not take prenatal vitamins during that time. Maternal daily intake of prenatal vitamins during the first month of pregnancy appears to be associated with reductions in recurrence of autism in high-risk families; additional research is needed to confirm these results, to further investigate specific nutrients, and to inform public health recommendations for autism spectrum disorder prevention. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2019;76(4):391-398. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.3901. Access the abstract and article from [here](#).

## Featured Course

### La Trobe University Online Subjects in Disability Studies

The School of Allied Health, Psychology and Public Health offers professional development short courses. Flexible, online subjects can be completed whether you're entering the sector, or a professional already in the field. Choose an area you'd like to upskill in.

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## Education Resources

### Comprehensive Health Assessment of the Older Adult.

This Online Course will provide nurses and other health professionals with a detailed explanation of why and how a comprehensive health assessment (CHA) of an older adult is undertaken. 1hr20min. [Click here](#) to view this course

### [Diabetes indicators for the Australian National Diabetes Strategy 2016–2020](#)

*Diabetes indicators for the Australian National Diabetes Strategy 2016–2020* provides baseline data for the 55 indicators identified in the *Diabetes in Australia: focus on the future* implementation plan. These indicators aim to inform the evidence base for assessing progress against the seven high-level goals outlined in *Australian National Diabetes Strategy 2016–2020*. These goals relate to the prevention, early detection, management and care of all forms of diabetes in Australia. **Some of the risk indicators are:**- waist circumference, overweight and obesity, insufficient physical activity, inadequate fruit and/or vegetable consumption, total energy intake from saturated fatty acids. Access the AIHW resource directly [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## Conference Calendar

**3 May 2019**

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

**8 - 9 May 2019**

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

**14 May 2019**

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

**14 May 2019**

**National Australian Network on Disability Conference.** RACV City Club Melbourne. [Info](#)

**15 - 16 May 2019**

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

**15 - 16 May 2019**

**National Dementia Conference. Rendezvous Melbourne.** Informa. [Info](#)

**21 May 2019**

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

**22 May 2019**

**Putting Active Support into Practice. Sydney.** Centre for Disability Studies, Uni Sydney. [Info](#)

**23 May 2019**

**A Window on Autism. Sydney.** ACWA / CCWT. [Info](#)

**23 - 24 May 2019**

**Disability, Community and Home Care Nursing Conference. Melbourne.** AusMed Education. [Info](#)

24 - 26 May 2019

**APS College of Clinical Psychologists Conference. Melbourne.** Australian Psychological Society. [Info](#)

25 May 2019?

**World MS Day.** [website](#)

28 May 2019

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

30 May 2019

**Guide to the NSW Mental Health System for Carers. Sydney.** [Info](#)

4 June 2019

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

4 - 5 June 2019

**Person-Centred Group Facilitation.** Sydney Uni. Centre for Disability Studies. [Info](#)

7 June 2019

**Responding to Abuse & Neglect in Disability Services. Sydney.** ACWA / CCWT. [Info](#)

7 - 8 June 2019

**Gold Coast Disability Expo. Gold Coast Event Centre, Bundal.** 4Community. [Link](#)

11 June 2019

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

13 June 2019

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

13 - 14 June 2019

**Mental Health Conference. Adelaide.** AusMed Education. [Info](#)

18 - 20 June 2019

**Aged Care Week, Aged Care CX, Aged Care Tech.** Pullman Melbourne on the Park. [Info](#)

20 June 2019

**Building Inclusive Communities.** Sydney Uni. Centre for Disability Studies. [Info](#)

20 - 21 June 2019?

**Disability At Work Conference.** Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne. [Info](#).

21 June 2019

**MN Motor Neurone Disease Global Day.** [website](#)

25 June 2019

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

2 July 2019

**Six Steps to Universal Learning Design.** Sydney Uni. Centre for Disability Studies. [Info](#).

2 July 2019

**NDIS Supporting Consumers & Carers Accessing the NDIS.** Dubbo, NSW. [Info](#)

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