

# Global Gazette Disability

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**September – October 2019 Volume 13, Issue 77**

## **NDIS and health services to provide disability-related health supports**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and health services will now work together to support people with disability through the funding of disability-related health supports. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council held its first formal meeting for the year in the Gold Coast to address a number of long-standing issues, including the interaction of the NDIS and the health system.

**From October 1 2019, NDIS participants will be able to access health supports** required as a result of their disability. Under the move, these disability-related supports include respiratory, nutrition and continence supports and supports to manage epilepsy, pressure wounds, swallowing difficulties (dysphagia) and podiatry.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and State and Territory health departments will develop aligned communications to implement the collaboration of funded disability-related health supports by the NDIS and health systems. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

**URGENT - Have your say NOW to help FIX the NDIS**

## **New NDIS Inquiries by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme**

**Supported Independent Living - URGENT Submission closing date is 6 September 2019.**

Access the Web page [here](#).

As part of the committee's role to inquire into the implementation, performance and governance of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the committee will inquire into and report on Supported Independent Living (SIL), with particular reference to:

- a) the approval process for access to SIL;
- b) the vacancy management process, including its management and costs;
- c) the funding of SIL; and
- d) any related issues.

**NDIS Planning - URGENT Submission closing date is 6 September 2019.**

Access the Web page [here](#).

As part of the committee's role to inquire into the implementation, performance and governance of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the committee will inquire into and report on NDIS Planning, with particular reference to:

- a. the experience, expertise and qualifications of planners;
- b. the ability of planners to understand and address complex needs;
- c. the ongoing training and professional development of planners;
- d. the overall number of planners relative to the demand for plans;
- e. participant involvement in planning processes and the efficacy of introducing draft plans;
- f. the incidence, severity and impact of plan gaps;
- g. the reassessment process, including the incidence and impact of funding changes;
- h. the review process and means to streamline it;
- i. the incidence of appeals to the AAT and possible measures to reduce the number;

- j. the circumstances in which plans could be automatically rolled-over;
- k. the circumstances in which longer plans could be introduced;
- l. the adequacy of the planning process for rural and regional participants; and
- m. any other related matters.

Submission closing date is **6 September 2019**.

### **Making a submission**

Access the web page for guidance on making a submission [here](#).

### **Writing a submission**

#### **The best submissions:**

- clearly address some or all of the terms of reference—you do not need to address each one
- are relevant and highlight your own perspective
- are concise, generally no longer than four to five pages
- begin with a short introduction about yourself or the organisation you represent
- emphasise the key points so that they are clear
- outline not only what the issues are but how problems can be addressed, as the committee looks to submissions for ideas to make recommendations
- only include documents that directly relate to your key points
- only include information you would be happy to see published on the internet.

Submissions that include complex argument, personal details or criticise someone may take the committee longer to process and consider.

## **Disability News**

### **[National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment \(Streamlined Governance\) Bill 2019](#)**

The Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee is reviewing this bill which would change the way all the State and Territory Ministers and the Federal Minister come to agreement about proposed changes to the NDIS. They are having the next meeting on 30 August 2019. URGENT submissions, past the closing date but before the 30 August meeting should be sent to [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)  
Committee reporting date is 6 September 2019.

## **Disability News**

### **Disability Royal Commission Update & Now Accepting Submissions**

The Disability Royal Commission recently held workshops in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne with legal practitioners and advocates with experience in disability law and related areas. Commissioner Alastair McEwin AM and Special Senior Counsel Assisting, Chris Ronalds AO SC, facilitated the three workshops bringing together over 40 professionals who shared their views on significant legal issues and barriers for people with disability. The four key areas of focus addressed by the workshop were: homes and living, education and learning, economic participation and justice. Participants were also asked to share strategies and case studies that have been successfully employed to prevent and address violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability. A copy of the Chair's [introductory remarks](#) and [observations](#) from the three workshops are now available.

In June 2019, Commissioners of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability welcomed disability advocates from across Australia to the Commission's first workshop in Melbourne. As part of his opening remarks, the Chair of the Commission confirmed for all participants that:

- This workshop is the first of many to be held throughout Australia.
- Workshops and public forums will be held in regional centres and remote locations.
- The Commission will soon be inviting submissions.
- Public hearings will be held in each State and Territory.

[Easy English version of the Melbourne disability advocates workshop \[PDF 4.9MB\]](#)

[Opening Remarks - Commission Chair - 18 June 2019 \[DOCX 98KB\]](#)

The Disability Royal Commission web site can be accessed [here](#).

**The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability is now accepting submissions. Visit their page here at [submissions](#).**

A submission is the main way people and organisations can provide information to the Royal Commission about their experiences of violence, neglect, abuse or exploitation of people with disability. Anybody can make a submission. The Royal Commission cannot resolve individual cases. It cannot award compensation or force a person or organisation to take particular actions.

The Royal Commission are committed to making accessible and appropriate arrangements for people with disability, and their families, carers and others, to engage with the Royal Commission, provide evidence and share information about their experiences. If you need assistance with the submission process, or there is information on this website that you cannot access, please:

- contact our information line on 1800 517 199 (9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday AEDT), or
- email [DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRcenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)

The Australian Government is funding a legal advisory service and advocacy support for people who want assistance to make a submission. This support will be available shortly. If you would like to access this support, please subscribe to our [Mailing list](#) on our website. We will let you know as soon as support services are available.

## Featured Conference

**13 - 14 September 2019**

**Sydney Disability Expo.**

Hall 4, Sydney Olympic Park. 4Community. [Link](#)

**22 - 23 October 2019**

**Disability Nurses Conference: 30th PANDDA Conference.**

Novotel Parramatta. Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia. [Info](#)

**6 -8 November 2019**

**Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference.**

Adelaide Hilton, ASID. [Info](#).

## Disability News

### [Why the NDIS needs a pricing shake up](#)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme needs greater pricing flexibility to reflect local differences in costs across remote parts of Australia, experts say. Researchers at the Centre for Social Impact (CSI) believe the scheme's approach to price setting is too centralised and detached from the realities of service delivery. NDIS providers have long argued that [the main challenge for the sector was unrealistic pricing limits](#) – which set the maximum prices that providers can charge participants for specific supports.

CSI researchers noted that 46 per cent of providers surveyed for National Disability Services' 2018 market report listed "addressing pricing" as their top priority for the NDIS. "At the moment providers are having to cover costs related to training and reskilling workers to the new system, so it is putting additional financial pressure on providers," Lead researcher Gemma Carey said. "The prices in the NDIS do not take account of training more broadly either, so we could deskill the workforce if we're not careful." Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

### Is the Agency Ignoring Legal Rulings on Transport?

Studies have shown that transport in the NDIS is the number one cause of all NDIS related spiritual breakdowns. Given the sheer number of Participants who depend upon transport funding, it would be completely reasonable to assume that the issue would be well and truly resolved by now. But then if you made such an assumption, you probably wouldn't be too familiar with the NDIS.

The NDIS Agency's policy on transport is outlined in the [Operational Guidelines](#). Unfortunately, however, is not the whole picture. In important ways, **these policies contradict legislative rulings from both the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and Federal Court**. Leaving the Agency on dicey ground by continuing to enact them.

**Transport funding has been tried and tested in Australian courts and tribunals more than any other single issue in the NDIS. So we have no shortage of legal precedents to judge the NDIA's policy against.** Read the full Disability Services Consulting article [here](#).

## Disability Issues In The Media

### [NDIS under inquiry microscope](#)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be placed under the microscope during three new inquiries into planning, accommodation and wait times for NDIS access. The recently re-established Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS will commence two new Parliamentary inquiries into NDIS Planning and Supported Independent Living (SIL). While the Morrison Government will review the Scheme's legislation and aims to cut red tape and reduce waiting times for participants. Minister for the NDIS, Stuart Robert, says the review, which will be undertaken later this month, will look to streamline NDIS processes and inform the Participant Service Guarantee, which will set timeframes for participants to receive an access decision, set to be launched next year. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

### [Disability groups call for better quality plans in NDIS review](#)

The Morrison government's review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme must focus on improving the quality of plans, and not just on cutting wait times and red tape, disability advocates say. PWDA policy and advocacy director Romola Hollywood said people with disability were also finding their plans did not reflect the support they needed. Read the full ProBono0 Australia article [here](#).

### [Groundbreaking conclusion challenges "reasonable and necessary" NDIS funding criteria](#)

Australians living with swallowing difficulties, such as dysphagia, could soon have required nutritional support funded under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) following a groundbreaking conclusion from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Read the full Talking Disability article [here](#).

### [Lack of NDIS housing literacy means participants miss out](#)

Gaps in the understanding of homelessness by NDIS service providers are preventing people accessing the housing support they may be entitled to. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

### [NDIS funding deal to help people with disability avoid lengthy hospital stays](#)

Young people in nursing homes and others stuck in hospitals and aged care facilities will be among those to benefit from a new agreement that gives National Disability Insurance Scheme participants funding for a range of health services. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

### [Everything That Could Go Wrong: The NDIS Funding Health Supports](#)

The Disability Reform Council has agreed that the NDIS will start funding some health-related supports later this year. Sally explores some of the complications that could arise when putting this deal to life. Read the full Disability Services Consulting article [here](#).

## **[‘We will not tolerate the abuse’: NSW appoints ageing and disability commissioner](#)**

Robert Fitzgerald AM will investigate allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable people after being appointed New South Wales’ first ageing and disability commissioner. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **[Where to next for SDA?](#)**

How can improvements to the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) landscape be made to deliver high quality housing options for people with disability? Currently, the level of suitable disability housing in Australia is much lower than needed for the estimated 28,000 (or 6% of NDIS participants) who are expected to be eligible for SDA funding. Read the full Social Ventures Australia article [here](#).

## **[Auditor-general uncovers rising NDIS fraud allegations](#)**

Authorities are dealing with a major rise in tip-offs about suspected fraud in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, with the auditor-general revealing investigations are underway in 20 fraud cases totalling almost \$10 million. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **[Labor ‘alarmed’ by NDIA exodus](#)**

Bill Shorten has expressed concerns about instability in the National Disability Insurance Agency after it emerged several senior staff have departed the organisation in recent days. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **[Australian Government proposes changes to National Disability Insurance Scheme's governance](#)**

A Senate inquiry has been established to examine the federal government's plans to streamline governance arrangements associated with the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The government tabled in August a bill to change decision-making processes by the Council of Australian Governments' ministerial council which oversees implementation of the scheme. If the bill is passed in Parliament, some decisions made by the council would no longer need to be unanimous but supported by a majority of state and territory ministers. Tasmanian disability advocate Jane Wardlaw said this was a positive development as it had long been felt governance arrangements were cumbersome and affected the timeliness of decisions made around the scheme. Read the full The Examiner article [here](#).

## **[NDIS data drop reveals severe employment gaps](#)**

Nearly half of all employed National Disability Insurance Scheme recipients over 25 are working for an Australian Disability Enterprise, while just 33 per cent are working in mainstream employment at full award wages, new data has revealed. Read the full ProBono Australia [here](#).

## **[Disabilities community’s fury over single-plastic ban](#)**

For people with disability who struggle to eat or drink with their hands, a plastic straw is a life saver. But on Saturday, the South Australian government proposed a state-wide ban of single-use plastic products, with straws, cutlery, and stirrers first on the hit-list. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **[Dylan Alcott launches campaign fighting barriers to work for people with disability](#)**

People with disability spend much of their lives overcoming a myriad of barriers. One that’s often out of their hands is finding a job. But a new initiative headed up by paralympian Dylan Alcott is trying to change this. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

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## Featured Organisation

### Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability

<https://www.asid.asn.au/about/aims>

A professional society for those working in the field of support for people with intellectual disabilities, and is part of an international network of affiliated professional societies.

The goals of the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability are:

- to be an independent authority on intellectual disability issues across Australasia;
- to forge interaction between intellectual disability research, policy and practice;
- to lead the development of strategic partnerships;
- to engage and strengthen membership; and
- to ensure sound governance.

Membership of ASID provides you with access to invaluable information, resources and the opportunity to develop contacts to better inform and equip your organisation to provide the best quality service to those with intellectual disabilities. We believe that this work has never been more important than it is today and ASID membership provides the opportunity, through a united society, to influence developments in the area of intellectual disability. Members receive four issues a year of the Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability and two issues a year of our journal, Research and Practice in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (RAPIDD) and Monthly E News delivered to your inbox. Members have discounts at the annual conferences. [https://www.asid.asn.au/members/why\\_join\\_asid](https://www.asid.asn.au/members/why_join_asid)

## Disability News

### 300,000 Australians now receiving NDIS support

More than 300,000 Australians are now receiving support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), with over 100,000 receiving supports for the very first time since 30 June. The most recent NDIS quarterly report also indicated 88 per cent of participants were satisfied with their planning experience, and 94 per cent of parents and carers with children under five years said the NDIS has had a positive impact on their child's development.

Minister Robert said the latest figures are evidence of the significant progress of the NDIS to provide greater choice and control to people living with disability, however further improvements to the delivery of the Scheme are an ongoing priority. As part of our commitment to ensuring Australians can more easily access the government services they rely on, we will continue to work hard, with the National Disability Insurance Agency, to ensure the needs of an estimated 500,000 Australians with disability are met through the NDIS over the next five years." Read the full Ministerial Media Release [here](#).

### NDIS review to cut red tape and wait times

David Tune AO PSM, former Finance Department Secretary, has been appointed to conduct a review of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) legislation and rules, which in turn will inform the development of the Morrison Government's promised NDIS Participant Service Guarantee. Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Stuart Robert, said the review of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* will focus on streamlining NDIS processes. Consultation will commence late-August and will include an online survey and discussion paper, and face-to-face workshops in every state and territory. Read the full Ministerial Media Release [here](#).

## Disability News

### CYDA Submission to DSS NDIS Thin Market Project

Department of Social Service (DSS) [NDIS Thin Market Project](#). Our survey of 189 young people with disability and families/caregivers of children with disability found:

- 42% faced barriers to accessing the NDIS
- 71% had problems with the NDIS planning process
- 67% have had some difficulty or not been able to access the right services and supports needed

A number of recommendations were made to improve the NDIS for children and young people with disability and our submission can be found [here](#).

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## Disability News

### [Former royal commissioner begins job as new Ageing and Disability Commissioner](#)

Former royal commissioner Robert Fitzgerald has taken up a role as head of the new NSW Ageing and Disability Commission. As the state's first Ageing and Disability Commissioner, Mr Fitzgerald will have wide powers to initiate investigations, execute search warrants and seize evidence of abuse in vulnerable adults. Mr Fitzgerald has a long background in law and public policy and has been involved in many inquiries including into older Australians, gambling, early childhood development and paid parental leave.

He sat on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse from 2013-2017, has also served on the Productivity Commission and was the NSW Community and Disability Services Commissioner and Deputy Ombudsman. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

## Books & Publications

### **A Practice Guide for Working with Carers of People with a Mental Illness.**

A recovery-orientated practice and service delivery recognises the unique role of personal and family friendships in promoting wellbeing, providing care and fostering recovery across the lifespan and recognises the needs of families and support givers themselves. The six Partnership Standards are designed to improve outcomes for consumers by combining the knowledge and skills of staff with the knowledge and lived experience of family and other carers in a partnership approach to service delivery across all settings. Access the Carer Guide App, self assessment and Guide [here](#). Check out the online Library [here](#).

### [Housing Assistance in Australia 2019](#)

In 2017-18, over 800,000 Australians were in social housing, living in over 400,000 dwellings across the country. This web report covers social housing dwellings and tenants, overcrowding and underutilisation, priority groups and wait lists, financial assistance and more. Also read our media release, [social housing supports over 800,000 Australians](#).

### [National Social Housing Survey 2018](#)

In 2018, 3 in 4 (75%) social housing tenants Australia-wide were satisfied with the services provided by their housing organisation. New components added in this release are at a glance summary with data visualisations and two short supplementary reports on social housing stock transfers: tenant experiences in South Australia and Indigenous community housing: Queensland.

### **[Australian legal definitions: when is a child in need of protection?](#)**

This Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) resource sheet provides information for practitioners and researchers on legal definitions of when a child is in need of protection for each Australian jurisdiction. It brings together information from various sources to provide an accessible single reference guide for practitioners and researchers. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article and link [here](#).

### **Mental Health Association Submission to Productivity Commission**

Mental Health Australia has made a second [submission](#) to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health. This second submission provides a global evidence review of innovative and best practice service delivery models, addressing the social determinants of mental health, the mix of services and more.

### **Complaint handling guide: upholding the rights of children and young people**

The Guide provides practical advice to organisations about how to develop, implement and maintain a complaint-handling system that prioritises child safety and promotes the rights of children and young people to have a voice in decisions that affect them. The Guide is divided into nine guidelines, each addressing key aspects of an effective complaint-handling process and system. The Guide is also accompanied by an information sheet and reference guide to support organisations of all sizes navigate the material. The Office of the NSW Ombudsman developed the Guide through a national consultation process involving the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission and children's guardians, commissioners and ombudsman's offices across Australia. Access the Guide, Fact Sheet and Reference Guide from Analysis & Policy Observatory [here](#).

### **[Dementia and depression: What's the difference?](#)**

Dementia and depression are clearly two separate disorders but share a lot of similarities. Pearson explores the difficulties for health professionals to diagnose the two disorders in elderly patients, and speak to two experts about what clinicians can do to get it right.. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

## Directories Online

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

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**Tuesday night 9 to 12 pm** for all Australian blues, roots, jazz, folk and contemporary music. Weekly studio guests. Blues, Folk and Jazz Gig Guide and music.

**Internet Radio Streaming worldwide online at [www.alive905.com.au](http://www.alive905.com.au)** [follow the Listen Live links]

Over 550 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show over the 10 years of broadcasting.

**The studio guests coming up include:** = The Marvellous Hearts, John Kennedy, Mic Conways National Junk Band, Foreday Riders, Traditional Graffiti, Pat Drummond, Luke Escombe, The Vegetable Plot, David Wells, Hucker Brown, Christina Crofts, Adam Jones (Vic), Cameron Jones, Oz Manouche Festival, The Water Runners, Amanda Easton, Franky Valentyn Project, Ivor SK, Stormcellar, Gwyn Ashton, 8 Ball Aitken, James Wiechman, Tracey Palmer, Jubilee Jazz Anniversary and many more in 2019-20. **Join our 14,700+ Facebook Likes** or follow our studio guest announcements at <https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm>



### [Device shows promise for preventing pressure sores](#)

[this is relevant for disability high support needs care ]

A purpose-designed positioning device has proven more effective at keeping residents in a good sleeping position than standard pillows, the results of a Melbourne University study show. The study published in the *International Wiley Journal* in July compared the effectiveness of a fluidised positioner, which is a purpose-designed device filled with a viscous fluid mix that conforms to and supports the body during positioning, and the standard care pillow, in keeping residents in a 30-degree side-lying lateral tilt position. Using this position in bed is considered an effective strategy in reducing pressure injuries in a resident's tailbone area. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

## Grant & Fund Raising News

### [Harcourts Foundation](#)

**Rounds close 30 September & 31 December**

Harcourts Foundation have a clear focus on providing grants to reputable community-based organisations which need funding for projects and initiatives designed to benefit as many people as possible. We will prioritise applications that demonstrate that their grant will have the widest community impact. Team Harcourts throughout Australia have been raising money to provide support that helps, grows and enriches their communities. The Harcourts Foundation can only make grants to organisations with BOTH Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status. TCC status was formerly called Income Tax Exempt Charity (ITEC) status. Grant applications must be for a specific event, project, item, or initiative and must be scheduled to occur within four months of receiving the grant

### [Jetstar Flying Start Grants](#)

**Round closes 30 September**

Entry is open to not-for-profit community groups and organisations of any size, who are seeking funding to help enhance the lives of people in their local community; and can be classified into one of the following categories: Charity; Educational and Health Organisations; Arts Group or Organisation; Sports Group or Organisation. Grants can include up to \$15,000 worth of travel with Jetsar on the Jetstar network.

Criteria: (1) The extent to which the community group or organisation is seeking funding to help enhance the lives of people in their local community in the areas of charity, health, sport, education or the arts. (2) The extent to which the community group or organisation can maximise benefits to their local community with the Jetstar Flying Start grant (i.e. the extent to which they have a tangible project or activity in mind to utilise the grant). (3) The extent to which the project or activity will celebrate and highlight the work of the community group or organisation and help boost the profile and strength of the group for the future within twelve months of the grant being awarded.

## Participate in Research - CYDA Annual Survey

### **CYDA Annual Education Survey 2019 for parents, carers, young person with a disability**

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) is the national representative organisation for children and young people with disability aged 0 - 25 years.

We hope you can complete this short survey to tell us about the school education experiences of either:

- you as a young person with disability
- the child or young person with disability you parent or care for

***All information provided is confidential which means you will not be identified.***

This online survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will be confidential and we do not collect identifying information such as your name or IP address. For more information contact CYDA at [info@cyda.org.au](mailto:info@cyda.org.au) or phone 03 9417 1025 or 1800 222 660 (outside metropolitan Melbourne) or visit our website [www.cyda.org.au](http://www.cyda.org.au).

Complete the Survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWVXZ8F>

### [Association of Genetic and Environmental Factors With Autism in a 5-Country Cohort](#)

Dan Bai, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Benjamin Hon Kei Yip, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Gayle C. Windham, PhD, MSPH<sup>3</sup>; et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online July 17, 2019. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2019.1411. In a large population-based multinational cohort study including more than 2 million individuals, 22 156 of whom were diagnosed with ASD, the heritability of autism spectrum disorder was estimated to be approximately 80%, with possible modest differences in the sources of autism spectrum disorder risk replicated across countries. The variation in the occurrence of autism spectrum disorder in the population is mostly owing to inherited genetic influences, with no support for contribution from maternal effects.

### [NDIS Outcomes for participants with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

NDIA June 2018. ASD is currently the largest primary disability category for the NDIS. As at 31 December 2018, 29% of active participants with an approved plan had a primary disability of ASD, followed by intellectual disability, with 27%. Additionally, about 5% of participants had ASD as a secondary disability, with two-thirds of these having a primary intellectual disability. Access the NDIS report [here](#).

### [The Architecture of Autism Spectrum Disorder Risk](#)

Amandeep Jutla, MD; Hannah Reed, MD; Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online July 17, 2019. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2019.1375. MD<sup>1</sup> Decades of research have implicated both genetic and environmental risk factors for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, only in recent years have population-based studies been able to place risk in a broader context, allowing the relative influence of these factors on ASD liability to be better estimated. In this issue of *JAMA Psychiatry*, Bai and coauthors<sup>1</sup> report the findings of the most comprehensive family-based study to date. The study's main strengths are its size and the rigor with which it was conducted. By incorporating birth cohort data from 5 countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Israel, and Australia), the authors were able to include more than 2 million individuals from more than 600 000 families and compare their findings across national samples, creating a built-in test of reproducibility. In the overall sample, they identified more than 22 156 children with ASD, for an overall rate of 1.11%.

### [Environmental risk factors for autism: an evidence-based review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses](#)

Amirhossein Modabbernia, Eva Velthorst & Abraham Reichenberg. *Molecular Autism*, volume 8, Article number: 13 (2017). Current evidence suggests that several environmental factors including vaccination, maternal smoking, thimerosal exposure, and most likely assisted reproductive technologies are unrelated to risk of ASD. On the contrary, advanced parental age is associated with higher risk of ASD. Birth complications that are associated with trauma or ischemia and hypoxia have also shown strong links to ASD, whereas other pregnancy-related factors such as maternal obesity, maternal diabetes, and caesarian section have shown a less strong (but significant) association with risk of ASD. The reviews on nutritional elements have been inconclusive about the detrimental effects of deficiency in folic acid and omega 3, but vitamin D seems to be deficient in patients with ASD. The studies on toxic elements have been largely limited by their design, but there is enough evidence for the association between some heavy metals (most important inorganic mercury and lead) and ASD that warrants further investigation. Mechanisms of the association between environmental factors and ASD are debated but might include non-causative association (including confounding), gene-related effect, oxidative stress, inflammation, hypoxia/ischemia, endocrine disruption, neurotransmitter alterations, and interference with signaling pathways. Compared to genetic studies of ASD, studies of environmental risk factors are in their infancy and have significant methodological limitations.

### [Australian researchers involved in record international study of epilepsy genes](#)

Australian researchers and patients have been involved in an international study looking at the genetic sequences of people with epilepsy, with the research being deemed the 'largest study ever.' Victorian health service, Austin Health and the University of Melbourne have joined almost 18,000 people worldwide in helping identify rare genetic variations associated with an increased risk of developing the condition. Read the full Disability Support Guide article [here](#).

### [Temporal Changes in Effect Sizes of Studies Comparing Individuals With and Without Autism: A Meta-analysis](#)

Eya-Mist Rødgaard, BSc; Kristian Jensen, PhD; Jean-Noël Vergnes, PhD; et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online August 21, 2019. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2019.1956. In this meta-analysis of 11 meta-analyses, effect sizes for 7 distinct differences between groups with autism and control groups decreased over time, with 5 of 7 being statistically significant. The findings suggest that differences between individuals with autism and those without autism have decreased over time, which may be associated with changes in diagnostic practices.

## Featured Course

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Short Online Course)

AusMed online course (45 minutes). Dr. Anne Heath. There is a timely need for education to address the keys to prevention, screening, diagnosis and support outcomes for children and families affected by FASD. [Start this Course now](#) to discover the keys to prevention, screening, diagnosis and support.

### De-escalating Aggression and Violence (Short Online Lecture)

AusMed lecture Online. Despite taking all precautions, you may still find yourself face to face with a stressed and aggressive person. In order to keep yourself safe, it's essential you have the skills needed to de-escalate a dangerous situation. [Watch this lecture](#) and explore methods and insights that help to prevent workplace aggression. (47 min)

### Emergency Management of Asthma in Adults and Children (Short Online Lecture)

AusMed online lecture (32 minutes). When asthma flare-ups occur, it is vital that we, as healthcare professionals, are up-to-date and can respond with the appropriate action. [Watch this lecture](#) to be brought up to speed on asthma treatments and improve your confidence in recognising and responding to an emergency asthma situations. *Reminds us of what a serious illness asthma is, and not to be underestimated.*

## Education Resources

### NDIS Worker Screening for Managers

An NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission presentation can be accessed [here](#).

### [Catheters: an essential guide](#)

If you have ever wondered what the difference is between intermittent and single use catheters, this is the article for you. Access the guide and other reference from Independence Australia [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, Central Coast, 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)

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

## Conference Calendar

1 - 30 September 2019?

Dementia Awareness Month. [website](#)

2 - 9 September 2019

Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week. [website](#)

5 September 2019

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

9 - 11 September 2019

**Australian Social Policy Conference.** Sydney. UNSW Kensington. John Niland Scientia Bldg. [Info](#)

13 September 2019

**Older People's Mental Health PG Nurses Association Conference.** Uni fo Wollongong. [Info](#)

13 - 14 September 2019

**Sydney Disability Expo.** Hall 4, Sydney Olympic Park. 4Community. [Link](#)

17 - 18 September 2019

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

18 September 2019

**Introduction to Person Centred Active Support for People with Disabilities.** Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney. [Info](#)

21 September 2019?

**World Alzheimer's Day.** [website](#)

27 September 2019

**Challenging Behaviours in Children & Adults with Intellectual Disabilities.** Sydney. ACWA / CCWT. [Info](#)

27 September 2019

**Medication Management for People with Disabilities.** Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney. [Info](#)

1 - 31 October 2019

**Mental Health Awareness Month.** [website](#)

1 - 31 October 2019?

**Polio Awareness Month.** [website](#)

6 October 2019

**World Cerebral Palsy Day.** <https://worldcpday.org/>

8 - 10 October 2019

**23rd National Summit Aged & Community Services Australia.** Melbourne Convention Centre. [website](#)

10 October 2019

**World Mental Health Day.** [website](#)

10 October 2018

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

14 - 15 October 2019

**Your Voice, Your Choice Self Advocacy Conference.** Wollongong. [Info](#)

**22 - 23 October 2019**

**Disability Nurses Conference: 30th PANDDA Conference.** Novotel Parramatta. Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia. [Info](#)

**24 - 26 October 2019**

**40th National Conference of Australian Association for Cognitive & Behaviour Therapy. Adelaide.** AACBT. [Info](#)

**28 October 2019**

**Mental Health Law. Sydney.** ACWA / CCWT. [Info](#).

**28 - 29 October 2019**

**7th National Brain Injury Conference.** Melbourne. [Info](#)

**6 -8 November 2019**

**Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference.** Adelaide Hilton, ASID. [Info](#).

To list your conferences on our **Global Conference Calendar**  
– email details to [GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com](mailto:GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com)

## Publisher

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Editor: Ross at [GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com](mailto:GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com)

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