

# Global Gazette Disability

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**January – February 2020 Volume 14, Issue 79**

*Wishing you all the best for 2020*

## State of the disability sector report 2019

This 2019 edition of the National Disability Services report finds that while operating conditions might have improved, serious issues around pricing, sustainability and regulations continue to present great challenges for the disability services sector. The report are the results from the sixth round of the Annual Market Survey, conducted independently by the University of New South Wales. 667 disability service providers responded to the survey this year, the largest number so far. The report also provides expert analysis on the major issues for the year.

Key findings include:-

- **Financial stability is fragile:** Just 49% reported making a 2019 profit of 3% or more
- **76% of providers are worried they can't provide NDIS services** without the Temporary Transformation Payment price loading
- **Three quarters of respondents think there are too many unnecessary rules and regulations**
- **75% say unpaid assistance for people to navigate the NDIS** distracts from their service provision
- Over half (55%) of providers say NDIS policy reforms are heading in the right direction
- Four in ten respondents are confident the Quality and Safeguards Framework will improve services (DOES THAT MEAN 60% DON'T?)
- 22% of providers say operating conditions have improved (compared to 11% in 2018)
- Only 22% of respondents feel the NDIA has a high level of respect for service providers.

Access the full National Disability Services Report [here](#).

## Disability News

**NDIS Price Review Consultation - have your input NOW please.**

**Help FIX the flawed NDIS.**

The Annual Price Review to help determine NDIS price limits and related policies for 2020–21 has begun. The review will look at current NDIS price limits and related policies to ensure they continue to be appropriate to the market, to understand where changes may be required and provide recommendations.

'This pricing review is part of our commitment to building confidence and certainty for the provider market, as well as ensuring participants are able to access supports that represent value for money,' Minister Robert said. 'We are calling on participants, their families and carers, providers, peak bodies and community representatives to have their say on NDIS pricing matters, by submitting their feedback through the consultation process.'

The review will consider the current price control framework, as outlined in the Review's Issues Paper including 1:1 core and group-based supports, capacity building, plan management, regional, remote and very remote areas and provider claiming.

The review will also look at options to reduce administrative costs for providers while also improving the flexibility for participants to purchase supports to meet their goals. Any changes to the NDIS Price Guide and Support catalogue, in terms of support items and policy changes, will be announced and published at least one month prior to implementation on 1 July 2020.

More information on the NDIS Annual Price Review Consultation web page [here](#).

**Submissions close 3am AEDT on Monday, 3 February 2020.**

Submissions can be lodged:

By Email: [APR@ndis.gov.au](mailto:APR@ndis.gov.au)

By Post:

Annual Price Review,

National Disability Insurance Agency

GPO Box 700

CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

## Disability News

### NDIS Greater Flexibility

NDIS Minister Stuart Robert gave a speech at the National Press Club where he talked about his plan to get the NDIS working better for everyone who needs it.

There was a lot in the speech but just a few key things:

- Participants will be able to use their funds more flexibly - including moving funds between core and capacity building
- NDIS will provide independent assessments so people can get assessments for access at no cost to them
- Joint planning meetings and people being able to see a draft of their plan before it's approved

For more information now you can go to <https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/4016-minister-reveals-plan-improve-ndis>

**Every Australian Counts** will post a more detailed story on their website and breaking news on the NDIS.

Reported by "**Every Australian Counts**" free email news. Support their campaigns to improve the NDIS, subscribe to their free newsletter from their web site <https://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/>

**For direct access to the Minister's Speech** [here](#).

**The Minister's plan to improve the NDIS problems is summarised at six core strands:-**

1. Quicker access and quality decision making
2. Increased engagement and collaboration
3. Market innovation and improved technology
4. A financially sustainable scheme
5. Equitable and consistent decisions; and
6. Improve long term outcomes.

Some extracted key statements are as follows:

One important change that is likely to come out of the review is the implementation of a simple, agile plan adjustment processes – to ensure participants who only require a small adjustment to their plan due to a change in circumstances, is able to do so without a full plan review.

Further, the number of participants with plans longer than 12 months continues to grow.

Providing a draft plan summary—so often asked for by participants—will enable them to review and amend their personal details, goals, living arrangements, informal community supports and other community supports, and social and economic participation prior to a plan being developed.

Disability Reform Council also endorsed an approach to improve the provision of transport supports under the NDIS.

In late 2018, the NDIA undertook an Independent Assessment Pilot to better understand and assess the impact of disability for people seeking support from the NDIS. Participants of this voluntary pilot completed a functional impact assessment with an independent assessor using standardised assessment tools. The NDIA will recommence the independent assessment pilot in the Nepean Blue Mountains from later this month. The pilot will test the use of independent functional assessments across the full range of disability types, ages, cultural backgrounds and circumstances. Following the completion of the pilot to Government's satisfaction, we intend to fully implement the use of independent functional assessments – fully paid for by the NDIA – in the access and planning pathways from 1 July 2020.

## Featured Conference

**11 - 12 February 2020**

**Australian Accessibility Conference 2020.** Perth, WA. [Info](#)

**18 - 19 February 2020**

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

**24 - 26 February 2020**

**Having Your Say Conference.** Geelong, Vic. VALID. [Info](#)

**2 - 3 March 2020**

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

**6 - 7 April 2020**

**NDS NSW 2020 Conference.** International Convention Centre, Sydney. [Info](#)

## Disability News

### **NDIS Allied Health Funding: Do professional recommendations actually matter?**

We all know that the **NDIA often disregards professional recommendations** about how much allied health funding a person should receive, but can they really do that? Sara Gingold dives into an **Administrative Appeals Tribunal case that covers this very issue.**

**So what is the deal with the NDIA rejecting professional recommendations? Given the experience, qualifications and personal knowledge of the Participant that allied health professionals have, it would seem logical that the NDIA accept their recommendation as a default.** As a minimum, you'd expect that there would be a guideline about when the NDIA can disregard this advice. There is a lot of talk about the NDIA requesting evidence and assessments, but very little on how they will use them.

[In a recent AAT case], the Tribunal pointed out, the **NDIA's expert witness, who manages their National Technical Advisory & Complaints Branch, admitted that she had never even met the Participant. Which makes the NDIA's criticism of the amount of time the therapists had spent with [the participant] frankly bizarre.** She was also not an allied health professional, so it was not clear on what grounds she was criticising the speech pathologist's report, or making alternative recommendations. *The AAT statement* **"The Tribunal prefers the evidence of [the allied health professionals], as they are each qualified and practising therapists who have met and interacted with [the participant] and his carers.** There are better placed to make recommendations as to his need given that they were in a position to undertake a professional assessment of him. There is evidence that each of them have at least a reasonable understanding of his therapeutic history. Accordingly, the Tribunal is not prepared to dismiss [the allied health professionals]

*recommendations for the reasons contended by the NDIA, in preference for [the NDIA National Manager] recommendations.”*

*Should the NDIA Managers reviewing professionals support recommendations and approving funding be at least professionally qualified in a relevant field with substantial experience of disability in that field?*

Read the full Disability Services Consulting article by Sara Gingold [here](#).

## Disability News

### The NDIS Commission's First Annual Report

The first year saw 8302 providers registered or renewed with the NDIS Commission in NSW and SA. 1749 registrations lapsed, 92% of which were reportedly inactive. The most popular registration group was therapeutic supports.

The NDIS Commission received 1422 complaints – more than half which came from ‘a person with disability’ or their family or friend. More than half of these related to the very broad category of ‘provider practice’. The complaints process was completed for 1063 of these complaints with less than half being handled within six weeks (47%).

There was over 4500 reportable incidents notified to the Commission last financial year which seems pretty huge given we are only talking SA and NSW. There were 1925 alleged incidents of abuse and neglect, another alarming figure, but it is unclear from the report how many of those allegations were substantiated. 1618 reported incidents related to the unauthorised use of restrictive practice. Restrictive practices need to be reported to the NDIS Commission as a reportable incident in a number of circumstances such as when they are used outside a behaviour support plan registered with the Commission or when they have not been authorised according to the state or territory process. The extent of the problem is unclear though.

The NDIS Commission approved 11 certified auditing bodies and trained 281 individual auditors. There are now [14 auditing bodies](#) registered on the Commission’s website.

The [NDIS Worker Orientation Module](#) that launched in May was completed by 22,850 individuals.

<https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2019-10/ndis-commission-annual-report-2018-2019-accessible.pdf>

## Disability Issues In The Media

### [Disability providers unhappy with NDIS pricing](#)

A new report warns disability services are under threat without changes to the NDIS pricing system. More than half of disability providers fear they won’t be able to offer National Disability Insurance Scheme services under current prices, according to a new survey. National Disability Services’ survey of 667 providers found that many organisations believed administrative and service delivery costs were not reflected in the NDIS pricing limits – which set the maximum prices providers can charge scheme participants for specific supports.

NDS CEO David Moody said 52 per cent of providers were worried that the current pricing system meant they would be unable to provide vital NDIS services including **transport**. **“Without transport, some people with disability will struggle to travel to other services,”** he said.

He said there was also a “disturbing trend” towards a casualisation of the disability workforce. [And casual loadings are not reflected adequately in the NDIS pricing calculations.

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

### **Down syndrome comes with high dementia risk**

By age 55, three out of five people with Down syndrome will be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or another neurodegenerative condition, according to a new US study. The study also found the odds of developing dementia are 40 per cent for those with Down syndrome aged 40 to 54. It highlights that people with Down

syndrome have a much higher probability of developing dementia than their peers, Down Syndrome Australia CEO, Dr Ellen Skladzien told F2L. Read the full Freedom2Live article [here](#).

### **[Advocates demand stronger targets for disability employment](#)**

NDIS Minister Stuart Robert has unveiled a plan to get 30 per cent of scheme participants into work by 2023. PWDA CEO Jeff Smith said he was also concerned that only 53 per cent of people with disability in Australia were working compared to 82 per cent of non-disabled people. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

### **[Trial into musculoskeletal disability receives \\$1.3 million in Federal funding](#)**

The Mitchell Institute at Victoria University has received \$1.3 million of Federal Government funding to undertake a trial to support people with musculoskeletal disability to re-engage with work or education and to improve their community participation. Read the full Talking Disability newsletter article [here](#).

### **[Medicine safety now a national priority](#)**

The federal and state health ministers have made medicine safety a national priority in the wake of the aged care royal commission's interim findings. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Associate Professor Chris Freeman said PSA's *Medicine Safety: Take Care* report was the catalyst for this announcement. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

### **[The land the NDIS forgot: the remote Indigenous communities losing the postcode lottery](#)**

More than half of Northern Territory participants in the disability scheme are Indigenous – and for those who live on country, isolation, culture and environment are compounded by bureaucratic hurdles. Darwin Community Legal Service's NDIS appeals advocate, David McGinlay, says the problem is that the scheme doesn't acknowledge that [Indigenous Australians](#) in remote communities have particular needs due to their culture, environment and isolation. "This is supposed to be a national scheme that gives everyone the same rights and choices. It's not a postcode lottery." Read the full article at The Guardian [here](#).

### **[Our royal commission is not yet a safe place for people with disability](#)**

Emma Bennison, CEO of Blind Citizens Australia, reflects on her experience putting together a submission to the royal commission and the support – or lack thereof – she received. The information provided about the process is scant, legalistic and unclear; the counselling service is limited and difficult to access; and there appears to be a lack of awareness and empathy for those of us who have found the courage to share our stories. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

### **[Hundreds of providers at risk of insolvency](#)**

Almost 200 residential aged care providers with more than 30,000 residents have insufficient funds to cover their liabilities, according to a new analysis by Leading Age Services Australia. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

### **[Building the NDIS in regional Australia: a review of key policy approaches](#)**

This report aims to bring to attention the unique challenges faced by regional Australia. It seeks to prompt debate about how best to ensure that regional people with disabilities are afforded the same degree of agency and standard of care as those living in our cities. Read the full article and access the report from Analysis Policy Observatory [here](#).

### **[Community shares anger and frustration with Government](#)**

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability held their second Adelaide Community Forum at Stamford Plaza Adelaide... which showcased the anger people with disability, their family and friends are feeling towards the Government and the systems, policies and procedures in place. A number of speakers expressed fatigue around accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), as well as feeling like the Government did not care about their situations. Read the full Talking Disability article [here](#).

### **[Children with disability face bullying and exclusion in Aussie schools](#)**

Advocates say the segregation of children with disability in education is a fundamental denial of human rights. A national survey of 505 students and their families from Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) revealed that exclusion, bullying, and physical restraint was pervasive in Australian schools. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **Call for RC to take human rights approach**

The aged care royal commission's interim report comprehensively addresses a range of system failures but it lacks reference to human rights, says a law expert. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

## **The NDIS needs a new plan**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is not working for everyone and change is needed now, a new report has found. A comprehensive [white paper from the University of Western Australia](#) analysed 63 reports that have been written on the NDIS since it was first launched in 2013. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **Government strengthens Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan target**

Following the release of the Aged Care Royal Commission Interim Report, the Government has responded to the issue of younger people with disability permanently living in aged care homes, by strengthening targets in the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan.

Of the \$537 million investment into the aged care sector focused on three priority areas, around \$4.7 million will be put towards helping place young people with disability in more appropriate housing accommodation than residential aged care. Read the full Talking Disability article [here](#).

## **Morrison government unveils plan for 'last 20 per cent' of NDIS rollout**

The government acknowledged some people were still facing long delays getting on the scheme. NDIS Minister Stuart Robert announced the plan during a speech at the National Press Club, with six key aims including quicker decision making, fairer decisions and better long-term outcomes for participants. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

## **Featured Organisation**

### **Radio for the Print Handicapped 2RPH**

[www.2rph.org.au](http://www.2rph.org.au)

**Streaming Australia & worldwide at <https://www.2rph.org.au/listen/how-to-listen>**

Radio 2RPH was established as a community initiative to assist people with a print disability to access the written word, in particular time sensitive materials such as daily newspapers. Although 2RPH has operated from a base in Sydney, the reach of the station broadcasts has increased northwards to Newcastle and the Lower Hunter region.

The radio reading service features readings from the top daily newspapers, international and Australian magazines, and books for those with print disabilities, lack of access to published material or lifestyles that limit time for reading and remaining informed. The on-air programs, including book readings, are read and presented by over 190 volunteers from all walks of life at the Glebe studios.

Over 100,000 listen to the broadcasts weekly, and it's all provided by voluntary help! Funding is provided through government agencies, from donations and bequests, memberships and some sponsorships, and sponsored programmes. Radio 2RPH operates daily between 6.30 am and 11.30 pm with BBC World Service on overnight. On **AM 1224** and **FM 100.5**, Newcastle and Lower Hunter on **FM 100.5** and on digital.

You can get involved as a member, volunteer, sponsor, or make a donation here <https://www.2rph.org.au/how-to-help>

**LIKE on Facebook for the latest news on 2RPH at <https://www.facebook.com/Radio2RPH>**

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### NDIS Scheme Changes from 1st January 2020

- **Low risk providers** who are operating under a PTY LTD company or trust, will be assessed as a 'VERIFIED' provider
- There is a change to a 18 month period for surveillance audits (from 12 months previously)

Changes to the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Provider Registration and Practice Standards\) Rules 2018](#) (the Rules) will come into effect from 1 January 2020.

The Rules changes include:

- a consistent approach to audits for providers delivering lower risk supports irrespective of legal entity type
- further operationalise a proportionate quality audit process
- enabling a specific practice standard to not apply to a particular provider, upon recommendation of an auditor where not relevant to the provider's service provision
- imposing a condition of registration on providers subject to a certification assessment requiring a mid-term assessment within 18 months of registration approval
- extending the types of changes and events about which a registered provider must notify the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner.

### Registered NDIS Provider notice of changes and events

Some of the Rule amendments to come into effect from 1 January 2020 relate to Section 13 and 13A of the Rules, which requires registered providers to notify the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner of various changes and events.

These Rule amendments will require registered providers to notify us of any changes and events that significantly or adversely affect their ability to provide the supports or services they are registered to provide. These changes and events will include adverse changes to financial capacity, ongoing suitability of the provider or key personnel and changes in the organisation or its governance arrangements.

Under these amendments, registered providers must notify the NDIS Commission about:

- changes in the provider's contact details
- changes in scale, including significant changes in participant and worker numbers, and changes to the geographical areas and numbers of locations of registered supports.

For more information about notifying the NDIS Commission of changes and events, visit our [Notice of Changes and Events web page](#).

### [Delivering the NDIS plan: new medium-term accommodation for NDIS participants](#)

The Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Stuart Robert, today announced the NDIS will fund a new type of transitional housing support designed to support participants as they prepare to move into their permanent home.

Funding for Medium Term Accommodation (MTA) is available to NDIS participants who require temporary transitional housing while they wait for their permanent home to become ready or available for use. Typical examples of where MTA might be used include:

- bridging accommodation for younger participants who are at risk of being admitted to aged care, or those who wish to leave aged care, while they wait for home modifications or identified specialist disability accommodation
- participants who are ready to leave hospital but are waiting for disability-related home modifications to be completed on their house

- participants who have been found eligible for specialist disability accommodation but are awaiting on a vacancy or build to be completed.

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

### **Radio for the Print Handicapped 2RPH**

Sydney on AM 1224 and FM 100.5, Newcastle and Lower Hunter on FM 100.5 and on digital.

[www.2rph.org.au](http://www.2rph.org.au)

Streaming Australia & worldwide at <https://www.2rph.org.au/listen/how-to-listen>

## **Scholarships & Fellowships News**

### **Churchill Fellowship applications will open 1 February 2020**

Applications will open again on 1 February 2020 for travel between 1 February 2021 and 31 January 2022

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

### **Disability Nurses & Residential Support Workers.**

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<https://www.globaldisability.com.au/apply-for-a-position/>

## **Disability News**

### **New NDIA CEO Martin Hoffman spoke at the National Disability Services Annual CEO Forum**

He states " Thank you to National Disability Services for the invitation to speak this afternoon. It is an important opportunity so early on in my appointment as CEO of the NDIA, and one I was very pleased to accept. The people in this room have been involved every step of the way, from the early days of advocating for the creation of an NDIS, to the beginning of trial, and through transition to full scheme. You have worked with the Agency through the challenges and learning curves of rolling out a world-first Scheme. I know we will continue to work together on the path ahead, and I look forward to connecting with you all further and will value your guidance and collaboration in delivering the NDIS.

He further states " We are also very conscious of the provider experience, recognising how integral providers are to the success of the Scheme - a good participant experience and good provider experience often go hand in hand.

The NDS State of the Disability Sector report released today reinforces the areas that we still need to improve but also highlights the progress that has been made."

Read the full Speech [here](#).



### Caution for Support Workers: Summer Heat and Dehydration, Exhaustion, Stroke

Many of your clients are on medication that increases the risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Symptoms can be: confusion, dizziness, fainting, fatigue, headache, muscle or abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, and dark-coloured urine (a sign of dehydration). Sometimes an increase in epileptic seizures. Watch out for these symptoms.

Prevention—use air-conditioning and/or fans in vehicles and in-doors, keep out of the sun, use sun screen, long sleeve tops, hats & sunglasses when outdoors, don't ever leave in stationary vehicles. Plenty of good fluids.

Plenty of good cold fluids: fruit juices, juice drinks, milk shakes, Gatorade or Powerade. Ice in drinks. Water can be good—too much water can dilute blood electrolytes, especially when there is a lot of sweating and/or frequent urination &/or diarrhea.

Salads, Ice cream treats and refrigerated salads and fruit for meals and snacks. Cooler showers and frequent cold damp cloth for face and neck wipes also helps.

If signs of heat fatigue seek medical advise. Heat stroke and severe dehydration - call an ambulance.

## Books & Publications

### [A Clinician's Guide to Mental Health Conditions in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Assessment and Interventions](#)

Edited by Eddie Chaplin, Debbie Spain and Jane McCarthy

Covering a wide variety of common co-occurring mental health conditions including mood disorders, anxiety, psychosis, OCD, personality disorders, and eating disorders, this guide also explores broader issues to do with promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Authoritative and detailed, this is an essential resource for all clinicians and professionals looking to understand and tailor their approach to mental health in autistic adults, and the need for specific methods and strategies to enhance assessment and treatment. Infor and order from Amazon [here](#).

### [Australia's children](#) (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)

Childhood is an important time for healthy development, learning, and establishing the foundations for future wellbeing. Most Australian children are healthy, safe and doing well. However, childhood is also a time of vulnerability and a child's outcomes can vary depending on where they live and their family's circumstances. This report brings together a range of data on children's wellbeing and their experiences at home, school and in the community. Highlights are presented in [Australia's children: in brief](#). **Media Release:** [The wellbeing of Aussie kids varies by family circumstances and where they live](#)

## Policies & Guidelines

### NDIS SDA Design Standards

The SDA Design Standard was created over the past 6 months after extensive consultation across government, private sector, the housing industry and disability organisations. It is important to note that the Design Standard sets out minimum requirements for the four design categories: Improved Liveability, Robust, Fully Accessible, High Physical Support. View design standards [here](#).

### SDA Price Increases.

The outcomes of the limited cost assumption review have translated into the SDA Price Guide as follows:

- Increases in new build price limits for Fully Accessible design of between 10.1 and 16.4 per cent, depending on the build type.
- Increase in the price limits for robust design of between 9.4 and 14.1 per cent, depending on the build type.
- Increases to some location factors, which will increase price limits for dwellings in the following areas by between 4.0 and 10.5 per cent

The new price limits, can be found in the [new SDA Price Guide](#). The new SDA prices will be automatically applied to any new participant plans created from Monday 28 October 2019. However, providers have been instructed not to implement the price changes for Participants with existing plans.

## Directories Online

### Freedom 2 Live Disability Aids, Equipment & Supplies

A great starting point to identify products and suppliers for mobility, household aids, transport, pressure care, communications and wellbeing. Why not subscribe to their free email Newsletter for regular updates.

<https://www.freedom2live.com.au/category/product/household-aids/specialty-equipment/>

### ABILITY CLASSIFIEDS

Connecting New & Pre-Owned Disabled Mobility Aid Buyers and Sellers. Diverse range of equipment.

[www.abilityclassifieds.com](http://www.abilityclassifieds.com)

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

*Proudly sponsored by **Global Disability & Health Care Services***

**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 11 years of broadcasting.

**The studio guests coming up include:** = Ivor SK, Stormcellar, Girrorakool Blues Festival, Tomcat Playground, Gwynn Ashton, 8 Ball Aitken, Luke Escombe, The Vegetable Plot, Simon Kinny-Lewis, Blues Preachers, Blind Pilot, Ross Ward's Defenders, Andrew Jacobs, Lucie Tiger, James Weichman, Glenn Bidmead, Black Knight, Glenn Bidmead, Chris Turner, Jubilee Jazz Anniversary, Adam Jones, PHUN Uke, Toongabbie Music Club, Bush Music Club and many more in 2020. **Join our 15,000+ Facebook Likes** or follow our studio guest announcements at <https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm>

## Disability Aids, Equipment & Supplies News

### Are your slings compliant? Spring Sling Audit with Arjo's 10pt Check - Sling Inspection Service.

Not sure if your slings will meet compliance requirements? Our Aftermarket Service team can provide a professional onsite Sling Inspection and Conformity Service with full cost transparency. Book a Sling inspection [here](#).

### Accurate continence assessments, improving outcomes for residents

New to the Australian market, TENA® Identifi™ has been well received by one of Australia's leading providers of in-home care, residential aged care, disability services and retirement living. TENA Identifi enables Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) to conduct accurate continence assessments to provide true individualised care. The system is made up of specially designed pads that contain integrated sensors and a logger that transmits data via an embedded mobile SIM card to a secure web portal. Following the 72 hour assessment, a report is generated that demonstrates when a resident voids, how frequently, and how much. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#) for further details and benefits.

## Grant & Fund Raising News

### Disability, Mental Health & Carers: National Disability Conference Initiative

The objective of this Australian Government grant opportunity is to provide grants to conference organisers to help people with disability participate in nationally-focused, disability-related, conferences held in Australia. Grants will support eligible conference organisers to provide accessibility measures that will maximise the inclusion and participation of people with disability at their conference.

The intended outcomes of this grant opportunity that are expected to be achieved by funding conference organisers are:

- people with disability are provided with greater opportunities to participate in all areas of Australian life by assisting them and their carers with the costs of attending disability related conferences that might otherwise be inaccessible to them
- greater participation and inclusion of people with disability at nationally-focused, disability-related conferences held in Australia

To be eligible you must be:

- the conference organiser
- holding the conference in the 2020-21 financial year
- one of the following entity types: Indigenous Corporation, Company, Cooperative, Incorporated Association, Partnership, Statutory Entity, Trustee on behalf of a Trust, Unincorporated Association

Applications close: 7 January 2020

[More information and application](#)

## Research & Demographic Reports

### **Clinicians Please Respond - Assessment of functioning practices in Australia for neurodevelopmental conditions.**

**Online survey. Approximately 15 minutes.**

This survey is part of a PhD project, and aims to capture a picture of current assessment of functioning practices for individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions in Australia. Clinicians from all areas and levels of experience are encouraged to complete the survey. [More information here.](#)

### **[People with disability in Australia](#)**

People with disability in Australia brings together information from a range of national data sources to contribute to a greater understanding about disability in Australia. It shows that some people with disability face challenges routinely and actively participating in everyday life areas (such as employment) and are more likely to experience poor health, discrimination and violence. Around 1 in 5 (18%) Australians—or about 4.3 million—have disability. Nearly 1 in 3 (32%) people with disability—about 1.4 million or 5.8% of the Australian population—have severe or profound disability. Highlights from this report are presented in [People with disability in Australia: in brief](#). Also read the media release, [Picture of the experiences of Australians living with disability](#).

### **Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2018**

In 2018 there were 4.4 million Australians with disability, 17.7% of the population, one in nine (11.6%) people aged 0-64 years and one in two (49.6%) people aged 65 years and over had disability. Disability prevalence was similar for males (17.6%) and females (17.8%). 5.7% of all Australians had a profound or severe disability. Almost one-quarter (23.2%) of all people with disability reported a mental or behavioural disorder as their main condition. There were 2.65 million carers, representing 10.8% of all Australians. Females were more likely to be carers (12.3% of all females) than males (9.3% of all males). There were 235,300 young carers (under the age of 25). 3.5% of all Australians were primary carers. Over one-third (37.4%) of primary carers had disability, twice the rate of non-carers (15.3%). Half (50.2%) of all carers lived in a household in the lowest two equivalised gross income quintiles, twice that of non-carers (25.6%). Read the full ABS Report [here](#).

### **[Incidence Rates and Cumulative Incidences of the Full Spectrum of Diagnosed Mental Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence](#)**

Søren Dalsgaard, MD, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Erla Thorsteinsson, MSc<sup>1,2</sup>; Betina B. Trabjerg, MSc<sup>1,2,3</sup>; et. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online November 20, 2019. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2019.3523> In this nationwide cohort study of 1.3 million individuals in Denmark, the risk (cumulative incidence) of being diagnosed with a mental disorder before 18 years of age was 14.63% in girls and 15.51% in boys. Distinct age- and sex-specific patterns of occurrence were found across mental disorders in children and adolescents. These findings suggest that precise estimates of rates and risks of all mental disorders during childhood and adolescence are essential for future planning of services and care and for etiological research. Access the abstract and full journal article [here](#).

### **Autism in Australia**

Autism spectrum disorder (also simply termed autism) is a persistent developmental disorder, characterised by symptoms evident from early childhood. In 2015, an estimated 164,000 people had autism, representing about 1 in 150 Australians. In 2014–15, around 43,500 people with autism accessed disability support services under the National Disability Agreement (NDA). 83% of Australians with autism were aged under 25. Almost 4 in 5 NDA service users with autism were aged under 25. Read the full report [here](#).

### [Mental health: draft report](#)

The Productivity Commission estimates that mental ill-health and suicide are costing Australia up to \$180 billion per year and treatment and services are not meeting community expectations. This report includes a comprehensive set of reforms to reorient the mental health system to close service gaps, better target services to meet needs and focus on early intervention and prevention. Read the full Analysis & Policy Observatory article and links [here](#).

## Featured Course

### [Diploma of Community Services CHC52015 \(self paced - online course\)](#)

Centre for Community Welfare Training / Association of Children's Welfare Agencies

This qualification reflects the roles of community services, case management and social housing workers involved in the managing, co-ordinating and/or delivering of person-centred services to individuals, groups and communities. Courses are offered through a blended approach – with distance kits and some face to face workshops. A fully online program may be available on enquiry. CCWT encourages students to apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL) where possible.

Further information available [here](#).

## Positions Vacant at Global Disability & Health Care Services

**Support Workers - Disability & /or Residential Care & /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.

**See Current Positions Vacant at** <https://www.globaldisability.com.au/apply-for-a-position/>

## Conference Calendar

**4 January 2020**

**World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference.** Rourkela, India. [Info](#)

**5 January 2020**

**World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference.** Colombo, Sri Lanka. [Info](#).

**6 January 2020**

**World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference.** Hanoi, Vietnam. [Info](#)

**6 - 7 January 2020**

**International Conference on Developmental Disabilities and Therapy Methods.** Tokyo, Japan. [Info](#)

**6 - 7 January 2020**

**International Conference on Sport, Disability and Adaptive Sports.** Tokyo, Japan. [Info](#)

**2 February 2020**

**World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference.** Chennai, India. [Info](#)

**8 February 2020**

**World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference.** Bangkok, Thailand. [Info](#)

**10 - 11 February 2020**

**International Conference on Injury and Intellectual Disability Therapies.** Barcelona, Spain. [Info](#).

**11 - 12 February 2020**

**Australian Accessibility Conference 2020.** Perth, WA. [Info](#)

**13 - 14 February 2020**

**Mental Health: Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) Seminar for Nurses.** Ausmed. Rydges Sydney Central. [Info](#)

**15 February 2020**

**World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference.** Shanghai, China. [Info](#)

**17 - 21 February 2020**

**Positive Approaches to Behaviour.** Sydney. Maybo Trainer Training. [Info](#)

**18 - 19 February 2020**

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

**20 - 21 February 2020**

**Homelessness, Housing And Mental Health Forum.** Sydney. TheMHS. [Info](#)

**24 - 26 February 2020**

**Having Your Say Conference.** Geelong, Vic. VALID. [Info](#)

**1 - 31 March 2020**

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

**2 - 3 March 2020**

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

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**\*\* Current Edition published Online at**

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