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May – June 2020 Volume 14, Issue 81

COVID-19 Infection Control FREE Training

This Australian Government Department of Health 30-minute online training module is for health care workers in all settings. It covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

[Covid 19 Infection Control Course](#)

[Visit Department of Health website](#)

Covid-19 Resource List for Healthcare Workers

Australian Government Dept of Health

This compilation of the need-to-know facts and resources on COVID-19 ensures you can be confident your knowledge is kept up to date as the fight to stop the spread continues.

ICoronavirus (COVID-19) health alerts from the Department of Health as well as the latest official medical advice and case numbers. [Web site](#)

World Health Organisation

Take a look at the COVID-19 situation on a global scale with the WHO's Situation Dashboard, updated every few hours. [Web site](#)

Healthdirect Australia

A page of useful infographics and video resources from Healthdirect Australia for both healthcare professionals and the general public. [Web site](#)

Personal Strategies—to stay safe / reduce risk

Personal Strategies for Protection for AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS

Social Distancing at least 1.5 m apart, when not providing personal care

Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when providing personal care and proximity to others

Wash hands before and after putting on PPE

Restrict Unnecessary Travel / Outings (current legal requirement)

Wear face masks

Cough / sneeze into elbow or tissue and dispose safely in toilet

Wash external clothes more frequently / wash hair & face more frequently

Personal Strategies for Protection from CONTAMINATED SURFACES

Avoid / reduce contact with public surfaces (hand rails, lift buttons, etc.)

Wear gloves (disposable or washable (frequently))

Spray Surfaces – Glen 20 or homemade spray Alcohol 75+% (Methylated Spirits)/Water Mix

Wipe Surfaces – Alcohol Wipes (switches, door handles, knobs, benches, seats)

Wipe/ Spray SHOES — surface and soles after being out in public.

Check Department of Health guidelines for up to date provisions.

NDIS Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and support

Web page <https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus>

Please check this page regularly for the latest information on the response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

- [Latest advise from the NDIS](#)
- [Information for participants](#)
- [Information for providers](#)
- [What happens when ...](#)
- [Auslan videos](#)
- [Animations](#)
- [NDIS office operations](#)
- [Partner office operations](#)
- [Information in languages](#)

Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme: Planning Inquiry

the government supported recommendations to:

- Let Participants make changes to a plan without triggering a plan review (about time!)
- Use standardised and simplified terminology. Which is an ironically complex way of saying, speak in plain English
- Improve training for LACs and NDIA Planners
- Assign people with complex support needs an NDIA Planner
- Put measures in place to prioritise children with complex support needs or acquired disability.

The government also marked a recommendation to allow people to use their Core funding flexibly on transport as “supported.” Which is interesting, given that the NDIA did *not* do exactly that in its [recent transport announcement](#).

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

National Disability Services Annual Market Survey 2020

The National Disability Services' (NDS) Annual Market Survey has become one of the most important resources for understanding change in the Australian disability sector since the launch of the NDIS. The survey provides insight into service provider's perceptions of the NDIS, the operating environment for the sector and financial sustainability. Download the report from [here](#).

Provider perceptions of operating conditions for the disability sector have improved. Just 38% of providers in 2019 say that conditions have worsened in the last 12 months, compared to 55% in 2018.

Providers increasingly feel NDIS reforms are heading in the right direction (up from 47% in 2018 to 55% in 2019)

Three quarters of the sector feels the operating environment is uncertain.

At present only 19% of providers feel the NDIA is working well with the sector [81% FEEL IT IS NOT]

only 22% feel the NDIA has respect for providers. [78% FEEL IT DOESN'T]

Providers feel the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has made a good start to establishing itself as a contemporary regulator.

Providers operating in New South Wales and South Australia (the first jurisdictions to come under the remit of the new regulator) are more positive than others - 36% agree that the Commission is working well with providers [64% don't agree], compared to 21% of providers [79% don't agree] in the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria, which transitioned mid 2019.

Only 15% of providers agree there is sufficient advocacy available for the people their services support. [85% don't agree]

PRICING. Half the providers who responded are worried they won't be able to provide NDIS services at current prices – 52% agree in 2019 compared to 58% in 2018.

Just over half (53%) of organisations said they are worried about their ability to adjust to changes due to policy; the concerns about pricing and administrative burdens referred to above may be contributing to this uncertainty.

Reports about financial sustainability has remained consistent since the previous survey in 2018.

Recommendations:

- Either resource the NDIA to ensure adequate staffing, thereby addressing time delays, inconsistencies in advice between staff and locations, or outsource functions to appropriately qualified non-government providers.
- Provide more training to NDIA staff around communication with the sector and changes in rules and regulations, thereby helping to rebuilt trust between the NDIA and the sector.
- Investment by government in independent advocacy to provide high quality independent advocacy (which will also lift excessive administrative burden from providers).
- Continue to monitor and improve pricing structures.

Disability News

Research: Causes and contributors to deaths of people with disability in Australia

In early 2019, to further inform the work of the National Disability Insurance Scheme's Quality and Safeguards Commission in this area, they engaged Professor Julian Trollor, Chair, Intellectual Disability Mental Health, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry at the University of New South Wales, to undertake a research project to obtain an Australia-wide perspective on the prevalence of, and factors contributing to, the deaths of people with disability.

Respiratory disease was the major underlying cause of death for people with disability across reviewed reports. Aspiration pneumonia was the most common underlying cause of respiratory death for people with disability, accounting for just under half of all respiratory deaths. There were **low levels of influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations**.

Accidental choking was the leading external cause of death in the deaths reviewed. The vast majority of deaths caused by choking related to choking on food. **Lack of comprehensive nutrition and swallowing assessments for at-risk groups**. Safe mealtime guidelines not consistently being adhered to due to lack of staff knowledge and/or understaffing.

Epilepsy was the leading cause of more than a third of nervous system deaths. Epilepsy accounted for 5% of the total 901 deaths included in the scoping review. **Some people who died appeared to have been administered sub-therapeutic dosages of anticonvulsant medication**. It was not always clear whether people had **access to a specialist neurologist for management and oversight of their epilepsy**, including regular medication reviews, prior to death.

Ischaemic heart disease featured as the leading underlying cause of circulatory deaths. **High prevalence of known risk factors including obesity, hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, and low physical activity levels.** Lack of care co-ordination between services to address identified risk factors. Poor management of lifestyle related risks including insufficient referral and contact with specialists to manage known risks.

Staff were not always confident about, or aware of, **best practice standards for responding to a medical emergency such as an epileptic seizure or a choking event.** In some cases, staff had difficulty distinguishing between an urgent and a non-urgent health situation, thus leading to delays in treatment.

The report identified a number of areas of poor practice that contributed to the spate of premature deaths. “These included failure to comprehensively support client access to preventative health measures such as recommended **vaccinations, annual physical examinations** and **dental appointments**,” the report said.

See the detail online here <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/news-media/research-deaths-people-disability>

Disability News

The Federal Government is investing \$6.5 million into a Primary Care Enhancement Program (PCEP) to support Australians with an intellectual disability.

The new funding will be provided over four financial years under the Primary Health Networks (PHN) Program. This announcement comes as the Disability Royal Commission’s recent hearing into Health concluded in Sydney.

The funding will go towards:

- Supporting PHNs to build their capacity to support health professionals in caring for people with intellectual disability.
- Providing practical material for GPs and other primary health care professionals to enhance their capability.
- Developing health promotion information for people with intellectual disability and their families.

Jim Simpson a Senior Advocate from the Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) says that these measures are a move toward better care.

“[The Primary Care Enhancement Program] addresses the currently very low rates of health promotion, preventative health and detection of health conditions experienced by people with intellectual disability,” he says.

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

Disability Issues In The Media

Plan to protect people with disability

Australians with disability have been assured of their safety during the coronavirus pandemic through a **national cabinet-supported plan**. Read the full SBS news article [here](#).

Providers’ legal obligations for managing infectious diseases

There are several legal obligations upon aged care, health and disability service providers in relation to infectious diseases. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

NDIA is failing disability providers

The poor relationship between disability providers and the agency in charge of rolling out the National Disability Insurance Scheme could undermine the entire program, researchers warn. Just 19 per cent of providers surveyed in this year’s National Disability Services’ Market Survey said the National Disability Insurance Agency was working well with the sector, and only 22 per cent said they felt the agency had respect for providers. [78% did not – that is a huge percentage.] Read the full ProBono Australian article [here](#).

[Provider looks to roll out 1500 SDA homes across Australia](#)

Disability housing provider Casa Capace has opened its first smart multi-dwelling home for people with disabilities in south-western Sydney as a pilot for an ambitious plan to build 1,500 SDA homes across the country over the next five years. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

[Half of Australia's aged care homes now in the red](#)

The latest data from accounting and benchmarking firm Stewart Brown released last week shows that 51 per cent of the 984 residential aged care homes surveyed recorded an operating loss (negative earnings before tax) for the quarter ending September 2019. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

[RC hears health professionals have turned their back on disability](#)

The NDIS model is exacerbating the disconnect between the health and disability systems, the royal commission has heard. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

[Australia spending less than international counterparts](#)

Australia's low level of spending on residential aged care compared to other nations is "embarrassing" and putting the care of seniors at risk, say aged care peak bodies. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

[RC recommends 4-star staffing model](#)

Aged care providers will need to meet a prescribed amount of daily care, registered nurse and allied health time per resident under a staff-to-resident ratio proposal. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

[Home care providers to be hit with major funding change from June](#)

More than 900 home care providers will be affected by major changes to the payment system. Read the full Community Care Review article [here](#).

Featured Organisation

Australian Government Dept of Health

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GLOBAL – for casual staffing Specialist in Disability, Mental Health, General and Home Care staffing services **FREE PHONE 1800 009 292** <https://www.globaldisability.com.au/staffing-solution/>

Disability News

Goal Setting Tool for Adolescents & Adults on the Autism Spectrum

Adolescents and adults on the spectrum are often asked to participate in the person-centred goal setting processes of organisations such as schools (during post-school transition planning), disability services and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It can be difficult for some people on the spectrum to articulate their goals and prioritise their support needs.

This project aimed to develop and evaluate the *Adolescent/Adult Goal Setting Tool* (AAGST). The AAGST utilises a card-sorting process, to assist adolescents and adults on the spectrum to develop, prioritise and communicate their goals in a broad range of areas.

[Find out more about the product and purchase from Autism Queensland](#)

[Download Executive Summary](#)

[Download Final Report](#)

Disability News

Latest US autism recommendations emphasise early intervention

In its first update of its clinical recommendations on autism in 12 years, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has suggested pediatricians start treating children who show signs of autism even before tests confirm a diagnosis. Reflecting significant changes in understanding this neurodevelopmental disorder, these new recommendations come from a scientific working group in consultation with clinicians and family groups.

The report, published in the journal *Pediatrics* in December 2019, is aimed at helping doctors identify at-risk children and ensuring these children receive the care they need as early as possible.

Read the full Freedom2live article [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

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

Covid-19 Resources for Service Providers

National Disability Services – Coronavirus (Covid-19) Resources

Web site <https://www.nds.org.au/resources/all-resources/coronavirus-covid-19>

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Health & Wellbeing

Recommended vaccinations for older people extend beyond the flu jab

With such a heavy focus on the importance of receiving the annual flu jab, it is easy to forget the importance of older people being up to date with all vaccinations, writes Natalie Soulsby.

As part of the National Immunisation Program there are several vaccinations that are recommended for people over the age of 65 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 50.

Vaccinations are recommended for:

1. pneumococcal infection
2. shingles
3. diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda article [here](#).

Note that this year's Influenza immunisation is available NOW through your local doctor.

Health resources in Easy Read

The Australian Government has released a range of health information about COVID-19 on the [Disability Information Helpline](#) page on the Department of Social Services website in Easy Read and Auslan including:

- [Coronavirus – What is it? - Easy Read](#)
- [Coronavirus – 5 things to do right now – Easy Read](#)
- [Coronavirus – What you need to know – Easy Read](#)
- [Coronavirus – FAQs – Easy Read](#)
- [Coronavirus – Social distancing – Easy Read](#)
- [Coronavirus – Staying at home – Easy Read](#)
- [Information and support for people with disability and carers-Auslan](#)

Report on Government Services 2019: Vol E: Health

The Australian Government's Productivity Commission Report: Health sector services are concerned with promoting, restoring and maintaining a healthy society with the objective that Australians are born and remain healthy. They involve illness prevention, health promotion, the detection and treatment of illness and injury, and the rehabilitation and palliative care of individuals who experience illness and injury. The Report covers Primary and community health, Ambulance Services, Public Hospitals, Mental Health Management. Total Australian, State and Territory government recurrent expenditure on health services was estimated to be \$103.3 billion in 2016-17, around 43.9 per cent of total government expenditure on services covered in this Report. Public hospitals was the largest contributor (\$63.8 billion, table 12A.1), followed by primary and community health (\$36.9 billion, table 10A.1 and ambulance services (\$2.6 billion (in 2017-18), table 11A.1). Expenditure for mental health management was \$8.7 billion in 2016-17 (table 13A.1); however, as much of this expenditure is already captured in the public hospital and primary community health expenditure it is not included in the health expenditure total to avoid double counting. When expenditure by local government and for health services outside the scope of this Report are added, expenditure in 2016-17 was estimated at \$124.1 billion. Access the full report [here](#).

Policies & Guidelines

Disability Terminology in Reports & Emails

Professionalism, also means showing respect for the people you support, not only in your personal contact with them, their families, advocate and other professionals, but ALSO in your report writing, progress notes, communications book, incident reports, correspondence and emails. (These are all legal documents that can be subpoenaed to a court.)

People With Disability Australia advocacy organisation have issued a key point guideline in regards to **"Disability Terminology in Reports and Correspondence"**. Please read this immediately and before you write your next report. Note terms to be avoided.

Find the language guide here <https://pwd.org.au/resources/disability-info/language-guide/>

Recommended expressions include: people with disability, has a disability, lives with a disability, has a chronic health condition, lives with a chronic health condition, who is a wheelchair user, person who uses a wheelchair, person with paraplegia, person with quadriplegia, person of short stature, person with a cognitive disability, person with intellectual disability, person with Down Syndrome, person with Trisomy 21, person with a mutation chromosomal disability, person with a learning disability, person with ADHD, person with brain injury, autistic person, person with autism, person with psychosocial disability, person with a mental health condition, person who is blind, visually impaired, person who is deaf, hard of hearing, etc.

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Priority supermarket home delivery

All NDIS participants have now been assigned a unique home delivery access code to get priority access to supermarket home delivery services.

These have been provided directly to participants by SMS and email.

Use your code when placing online orders for home delivery services at participating supermarkets:

- [Woolworths](#)
- [Coles](#)
- [IGA / Foodland IGA](#)
- [Foodworks](#)
- [Harris Farm](#)

If you are an NDIS participant and have not received a code, contact your Local Area Coordinator, ECEI coordinator or call 1800 800 110.

Visit the [Priority home delivery services](#) webpage to learn more.

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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 [follow the Listen Live links]

Over 600 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: = Kevin Johnson, Chris Turner, Mike McClellan, Simon Kinny-Lewis, Ross Ward's Defenders, Franky Valentyn Project, PHUN Uke, Martin Cilia, James Weichmann, Tracey-Anne Palmer, Bush Music Club, Cameron Jones, Toongabbie Music Club, and many more in 2020. **Join our 15,500+**

Facebook Likes or follow our studio guest announcements at
<https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm>

Disability Aids, Equipment & Supplies News

MCS Mobility Aids – Largest range of mobility scooters in showroom

MCS Mobility – 112 Merrylands Rd Merrylands East, 2160

NDIS Registered Provider – Payment Plans – Hire or Buy – Friendly assistance

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Inquiries: sales@mcsmobilitydirect.com.au

www.mcsmobilitydirect.com.au

Travel Hoists

A travel hoist is a portable patient lifting device which is foldable to make it easily transported. This kind of hoist makes it possible to travel by car, train and cruise ship. Plane travel also becomes possible when the hoist is secured in its travel case. More information [here](#).

Type with One Hand Keyboard

TiPY is the evolution of the keyboard. With the new key concept of the one handed keyboard and integrated mouse function, you can use all programs and tables, use keyboard shortcuts, type letters, texts and use all the advantages of your computer and a complete word processor. TiPY makes your work, life and communication with the computer faster and more efficient. Tipy makes your life easier. More information [here](#).

Grant & Fund Raising News

[Fake charities use social media as scamming platform of choice](#)

The amount of money stolen by charity scammers has doubled from 2018 to 2019. Generous Aussies are being warned to watch who they give to on social media after new data revealed the number of social media scams leapt from 14 per cent of all charity scams in 2019 to over 40 per cent in January 2020. Read the full ProBono Australia article [here](#).

Research & Demographic Reports

[NSW CMO Mental Health Workforce Survey](#)

MHCC has released the [final report](#) on the NSW CMO Mental Health Workforce Survey, the first comprehensive state-wide survey of the sector's workforce. The survey was conducted by Human Capital Alliance (HCA) in collaboration with MHCC in 2019 to improve our understanding of the size, nature and context of the NSW community mental health workforce. The survey will enable MHCC to better identify workforce opportunities and challenges and pursue capacity building strategies to better serve the sector in years to come. Access the full report [here](#).

[Spinal cord injury, Australia, 2016–17](#)

A total of 227 new cases of traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI) due to external causes were reported to the Australian Spinal Cord Injury Register for 2016–17. The majority (80%) of these were males. Land transport crashes (39%) and falls (39%) were most often reported as the cause of traumatic SCI. See the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report [here](#).

[Mental health services in Australia](#)

Mental health services in Australia (MHSA) provides a picture of the national response of the health and welfare service system to the mental health care needs of Australians. MHSA is updated progressively throughout each year as data becomes available.

Mental health services in Australia has been published as a web report since 2011. A companion hardcopy publication Mental health services - In brief is produced annually. This report provides an overview of key statistics and related information found in the web pages.

Media Release: [Spending on mental health services set to reach \\$10 billion](#)

Featured Course

[COVID-19 Infection Control FREE Training](#)

This Australian Government Department of Health 30-minute online training module is for health care workers in all settings. It covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

[Covid 19 Infection Control Course](#)

[Visit Department of Health website](#)

Education Resources

[Free aged care coronavirus training video](#)

A new educational resource aims to help aged care providers and staff understand and respond to the coronavirus. Read the full Australian Ageing Agenda [here](#).

Short Online Courses

Altura Learning have inexpensive short courses covering residential care, home care, aged care and disability care. See current online courses See current online courses [here](#).

When to use PPE: New COVID resources for aged care staff

See the full Australian Ageing Agenda article and resources [here](#).

Positions Vacant at Global Disability & Health Care Services

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

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

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

Conference Calendar

All conferences, expos, and face-to-face education events are canceled due to Covid-19 provisions and government pandemic emergency provisions.

Contact organisers regarding refunds for any pre-booked events.

Many organisations and providers are offering webinars and online videos through their web site and/or YouTube. Check out your industry and professional association and government agencies and education providers for online education opportunities.

Publisher

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Global Gazette Disability & Ageing

Editor: Ross at GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com

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