



Disability Sector Consultative Committee

Communique – 10 March 2020

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) Disability Sector Consultative Committee (the Committee) met for the second time on 10 March 2020. The meeting continued the discussion between the NDIS Commission and key disability sector representatives, on national issues that influence the delivery of quality and safe NDIS supports and services.

Commissioner's Update

Members were briefed by the Chair (Commissioner) of the NDIS Commission's response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The NDIS Commission Executive is actively collaborating with agencies of the Social Services portfolio and the Commonwealth Department of Health to keep abreast of the pandemic and to pre-empt and coordinate authoritative responses to issues concerning NDIS participants and providers as they arise.

Since 7 February 2020, [Provider Alerts](#) have been issued to raise provider awareness of COVID-19, and to outline the quality and safeguarding obligations of providers under the NDIS Code of Conduct, NDIS Practice Standards and conditions of registration to keep NDIS participants safe. The NDIS Commission will continue to provide general and targeted information to participants and providers and will be ensuring that its regulatory tools are deployed to ensure that people with disability and providers are properly supported to respond to COVID-19. The Commission will be working with Commonwealth Health to ensure that relevant issues are given proper consideration in the Health response.

The Commissioner discussed the review by Professor Julian Trollor on the *causes and contributors to deaths of people with disability*. Work in a number of areas will commence over the next six months to support the prevention of deaths and serious injuries. The NDIS Commission's detailed [response to the recommendations](#) outlined in the report is available on the NDIS Commission's website.

A discussion was held on the NDIS Commission's [Activity Report](#) for the period 1 July to 31 December 2019.

Other Key Discussion Topics

At the inaugural meeting, members provided agenda items for discussion at future meetings. This meeting focussed on the following:

- engaging hard to reach people;
- developing NDIS workforce capability; and
- the regulatory management of conflicts of interests.

Engaging hard to reach people

An overview of the NDIS Commission's Engagement Framework provided members with an outline of its intent to communicate and engage with the sector in a structured, considered and professional way.

The many activities associated with the operationalisation of the Engagement Framework were highlighted including activities involving the transition of state and territory quality and safeguarding arrangements; raising participant and provider awareness of the NDIS Commission using a wide range of educational resources; the establishment of social media platforms; and the development of engagement plans at the state and territory level.

In this context, members were invited to raise issues for the NDIS Commission to consider when engaging and communicating with the sector in general and vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups. Members described practical ways to engage with hard-to-reach groups including considering a community approach to engagement; looking outside the sector and mainstream agencies; and targeting specific organisations and programs to disseminate information about the presence and regulatory role of the NDIS Commission.

Developing NDIS workforce capability

Members were provided with an overview of the NDIS Commission's role and functions relating to the development of the NDIS Workforce Capability Framework and associated workforce capability issues.

Members provided views on the design and implementation of the NDIS Workforce Capability Framework (Capability Framework) providing insight in to key emerging issues and risks; what good looks like; and how the core workforce capabilities could be transferred across a diverse and mobile workforce. The feedback provided will assist in informing the strategic direction of this aspect of the NDIS Commission's work.

The regulatory management of conflicts of interests.

The NDIS Commission Registrar provided members with a presentation on how the NDIS Commission's regulatory arrangements can manage and respond to conflicts of interest. The presentation and initial discussion will provide a basis for members to revisit this theme at future meetings.

The Committee will next meet on 30 June 2020.