



Disability Sector Consultative Committee Commuque - 19 November 2019

On 19 November 2019, the NDIS Commission Disability Sector Consultative Committee (the Committee) met for the first time.

The Committee is one of a number of mechanisms established to assist the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner (the Commissioner) in delivering core functions under section 181 of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act 2013*. An Industry Consultative Committee has also been established parallel to this Committee, to gain perspectives on key issues from both participant representatives and the market.

A key function of this Committee is the provision of high-level evidence-based advice to the Commissioner on national issues which influence the delivery of quality and safe NDIS supports and services.

At the inaugural meeting, the Chair (Commissioner) and Executive team gave members an overview of the strategic and regulatory priorities of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) as well as an update on what has happened since the NDIS Commission commenced on 1 July 2018.

A discussion on the role and function of the Committee followed and members contributed ideas about future working arrangements of the Committee and the most effective way for the NDIS Commission to engage and consult with relevant groups.

As representatives of their organisations, members provided their perspectives and areas of focus for the NDIS Commission. The information from members highlighted a number of high-level themes relevant to the disability sector and the remit of the NDIS Commission, such as:

- participant access to quality and safe evidence-based supports and services, as it relates to the NDIS Commission market oversight role
- oversight of unregistered providers
- thin markets and impact on participant choice and control, particularly in regards to behaviour support
- advice on managing providers' potential conflicts of interest when delivering multiple support types
- workforce capability and the professionalisation of disability workers
- effective information sharing arrangements between the NDIS Commission and other regulatory agencies
- a need for high quality, values-based support material for the disability sector relating to quality and safety matters
- engagement and consultation with key disability organisations to support accessibility of the NDIS Commission's services and communication materials.

The contribution from members will assist the NDIS Commission in shaping its regulatory approach to improve outcomes for people with disability in the context of the Commissioner's functions.

The themes will also be useful in setting the agenda for future meetings as well as informing areas of future research.

The Committee will meet three times a year, with the next meeting scheduled for 10 March 2020.