



Industry Consultative Committee *Communique - 26 November 2019*

On 26 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*. A Disability Sector 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 remit of the NDIS Commission including:

- developing workforce capability
 - enabling the recruiting, training, upskilling and retaining of quality staff in the sector in line with the NDIS Commission role in supporting continuous improvement amongst NDIS providers
 - provider education relating to provider roles and responsibilities in the new regulatory framework
 - contributing to a strategic view of the future role of support workers and their career pathways
- opportunities for streamlining regulatory and administrative processes for providers
 - interface between the NDIS Commission, National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and Department of Social Services (DSS) and opportunities for streamlining, better coordination and communication
 - reducing administrative burden on providers to meet the NDIS Commission regulatory requirements

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- streamlining NDIS Practice Standards and other quality standards in human services for providers subject to multiple accreditation schemes and audit processes
 - behaviour support
 - lifting the quality and consistency of behaviour support plans, with potential for a simpler version for less complex needs
 - providing support for behaviour support practitioners and providers in areas where there are thin markets
 - inconsistencies in requirements for restrictive practices between states and territories and impacts on providers operating in multiple jurisdictions
 - auditors and the audit process
 - consistency between auditors and audit non-conformances and outcomes
 - improving auditors' understanding of different types of services and service delivery models such as plan management, support coordination and mental health services
 - supporting providers to use the audit process as an opportunity for continuous improvement
 - compliance and enforcement priorities for the NDIS Commission
 - opportunities for using data-driven approaches in the preventative domain of the NDIS Commission's functions.

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 11 March 2020.