



National Disability Insurance Scheme Victorian Bulletin July 2013

From the Minister for Disability Services and Reform, Mary Wooldridge

Hello and welcome to the fifth electronic bulletin on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, now known as DisabilityCare Australia, from the Victorian Coalition Government. If you are not subscribed to Victoria's NDIS mailing list and wish to receive future bulletins directly, please email NDIS@dhs.vic.gov.au

Launch of DisabilityCare Australia in Barwon region

On Sunday 30 June, the Premier, the Hon. Denis Napthine and I joined 150 people in Geelong to celebrate the launch of DisabilityCare Australia in the Barwon area.

There was a real party atmosphere as we reflected on the journey to date and looked ahead to the future.

1 July 2013 will forever be a turning point for disability services. The start of a new approach, with the potential to revolutionise the lives of Australians with a disability and those who care for them.

On behalf of the Victorian Coalition Government, thank you for your commitment, passion and advocacy. This advocacy has been vital in generating widespread community support for the scheme and making it a reality.



Left to right: Bruce Bonyhady, Mary Wooldridge, Mia Soares, Denis Napthine and Jacqui Soares.

Announcement of DisabilityCare Australia Board and Independent Advisory Council

The Commonwealth Government has recently announced the establishment of the DisabilityCare Australia Board and Advisory Council. The Board will set the strategic direction for the scheme and oversee the scheme's financial sustainability. The Board will receive advice from an independent Advisory Council established under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act.

The Victorian Coalition Government welcomes the appointment of Mr Bruce Bonyhady AM as the inaugural Chair of the Board. We also congratulate Dr Rhonda Galbally AO on her appointments as a Board Member and Principal Member of the Independent Advisory Council. Both Mr Bonyhady and Dr Galbally were nominated by Victoria and we are delighted that the Commonwealth has supported these nominations. Other Victorians represented on the Advisory Council are Mr Dean Barton-Smith AM and Dr Gerry Naughtin.

The establishment of the Board and an Independent Advisory Council will support sound governance arrangements under the scheme. This will help to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of DisabilityCare Australia.

New leadership and advocacy initiative

The experiences of participants and their families and carers will be fundamental to the success and future development of DisabilityCare Australia. Victoria is a major stakeholder in the scheme – funding 60 per cent of the launch in the Barwon region and 49 per cent of the full scheme in Victoria. We want it to be the best it can possibly be so that people with a disability can be the best that they can possibly be.

That is why the Victorian Government will provide funding of \$400,000 to the Committee for Geelong to undertake a leadership and advocacy development initiative to run during the Barwon launch.

The **LEAD Barwon (Leading, Educating and Advocating for Disability)** initiative will provide 20 individuals – participants of DisabilityCare Australia or family members or carers of people with a disability – with training and support so that they can develop skills as advocates and leaders and publicly share their experience of DisabilityCare Australia. Over the longer term, the initiative aims to help ensure DisabilityCare Australia is the best possible system for Victorians with a disability, their carers and families.

The Committee for Geelong will be seeking expressions of interest from participants of DisabilityCare Australia or family members or carers of people with a disability to participate in the initiative. For further information, visit www.committeeforgeelong.com.au

Geelong announced as national DisabilityCare Australia HQ

On 3 June 2013, I was delighted to join the former Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard and the Premier, the Hon. Denis Napthine to announce that the national headquarters of DisabilityCare Australia will be established in Geelong. The Victorian Government will provide \$25 million to support the establishment of the headquarters in Geelong.

The decision to locate the headquarters in Geelong is another major milestone for Victorians with disability, their families, carers and service providers. Victoria has long been at the forefront of disability reform and the announcement recognises Victoria's substantial contribution to the development of all aspects of the scheme and the strong local disability services sector in Geelong.

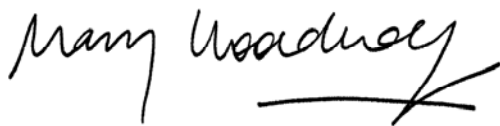
The DisabilityCare Australia head office will include staff responsible for managing the scheme's operation, the national operations management, the CEO and executive support and corporate services.

Shaping the development of the full scheme

Over the coming weeks, months and years, we need to check how people's experience with DisabilityCare Australia is unfolding. This includes checking that reasonable and necessary supports funded by DisabilityCare Australia translate to good outcomes for participants. We are keen to ensure that outcomes of the launch are used to inform and develop the full scheme.

The National Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University of South Australia has been selected to conduct an independent evaluation of the DisabilityCare Australia launch over the next three years. The evaluation will commence at the same time as the launch and will assess the outcomes and experiences of launch participants. This will provide a strong foundation for the development of an effective and sustainable scheme to be rolled out across the country.

The evaluation will also provide the opportunity for people with a disability, their carers and families to share their experience and to provide valuable input about their experience as participants in the scheme. I will provide you with further information about this consultation process once it is finalised with the evaluator.



Hon Mary Wooldridge MP
Minister for Disability Services and Reform

Get involved

For more information visit:

[The Department of Human Services website](#)

[Every Australian Counts](#)

[The DisabilityCare Australia website](#)

This publication is also available in an accessible format at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ndis

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