



# EAC eNEWS

Western Australia June 2011  
www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

The Federal government has 25 Parliamentary sitting days to respond to the final Productivity report on an NDIS after it is handed over on 31 July 2011. In this critical time, every Australian with a disability, their families, carers and supporters should tell MP's the NDIS must happen!

## TARGET 100K –WE CAN DO IT

As of today over 28,500 Australians have signed on to support the NDIS campaign, which is a big jump in our numbers in recent weeks. In fact we've been growing by 2000 people per week since the May congress. However, while we have good intentions from across the political spectrum, we don't yet have bankable political support and with these numbers we are still just another interest group.

That can change if we can grow the numbers of campaign supporters rapidly in coming weeks and months, so that our politicians will be unable to ignore the groundswell of public opinion.

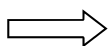
Our target is **30,000** by this weekend and **100,000** supporters registered online by 3 December, International Day of People with a Disability.

The Australian Government's response to the final PC report on the NDIS is due at the end of November. We will be very happy to revise that target upwards if we exceed expectations.

This is the sort of number that influences election outcomes, particularly if our supporters also happen to reside in key marginal seats. If our current group of supporters can go and aim to recruit another 10 people to the cause, then we can really start flexing our muscle.

Its as easy as [Send to a Friend](#) = ask 10 colleagues, family, friends, clients or members to pledge their support online for the NDIS. Or download a printable form [here](#).

SEE PAGE 2



## GETTING WA READY FOR AN NDIS – WHERE TO FROM HERE?

We know that an NDIS has to have cooperation from both state and federal politicians. Some states have already agreed. But WA has not! See their submission DR 683

We want to discuss the official WA Government position at a public meeting and what you would like it to be. We'll also hear from Bryan Woodford (Chair of the Victorian Government's new NDIS taskforce) about the positive preparations for an NDIS already happening in that state.

A panel representing West Australians with a disability, families/ carers plus advocacy groups and service providers will comment and lead a discussion about good ideas to move WA forward. We'll also give you the latest campaign info about whats planned locally and how to get involved.

**10.30-12.30 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Function Room, Town of Vincent cnr Loftus & Vincent Sts Leederville. RSVP:**

mary.butterworth@ndis.org.au or 9208 9831  
Please advise of any access or dietary needs  
(Please see attached flyer for more details).

## CONTACTING YOUR MP – A GUIDE TO GOING FOR IT

We keep urging you to email or visit your MP. If this is something you haven't done before and you want some quick tips we now have a toolkit on the website which outlines some simple steps and includes a sample letter. Go to the *Join the Conversation* tab on the website and scroll down

to the *Counting on our MPs headline* on the RH side  
<http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/category/counting-on-our-mps>

If you're unsure who your MP is go to <http://apps.aec.gov.au/esearch/> and type in your postcode or suburb. It will tell you're the name of your electorate, the name of your MP and the party to which he or she belongs.

As we've said above we need both federal and state politicians to hear about the groundswell of support for this, and for the wider community to know they've been told. Try and get your local paper to cover your visit – it can be as simple as the people who visit holding one of our Count Me In signs with the politician or even outside of the electorate office or send them a copy of your letter or petition. Let us know who you visited and when by emailing [Geraldine.mellet@ndis.org.au](mailto:Geraldine.mellet@ndis.org.au) or [mary.butterworth@ndis.org.au](mailto:mary.butterworth@ndis.org.au)

### **WA GIVES FEEDBACK TO THE PC DRAFT REPORT**

Well done to all the West Australians who have been busy putting in their individual submissions to the PC draft or have contributed to larger ones, as well as attending the public hearings. There are a range of views and you can find them in the transcript of the hearings <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support/public-hearings>

Or read written submissions : <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support/submissions#post-draft> If we've missed your submission or its yet to be uploaded on the website let me know the name and number for next month's newsletter.

DR633 Ms GM Jegasothy  
DR 677 United Voice  
DR 680 The Centre for Cerebral Palsy WA  
DR 683 WA Government  
DR 703 Association for the Blind of WA  
DR 721 Carol Franklin  
DR740 Activ Foundation

DR749 Council of Regional Disability Services  
DR 752 Brightwater Care Group  
DR 765 Neurological council of WA  
DR 795 Autism Association of WA  
DR 798 Headwest Brain Injury Assoc of WA  
Dr 800 WA Individualised Services  
DR 819 Beth Marchbank  
DR 821 Senses Foundation  
DR 823 Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre  
DR 829 Nulsen Association WA  
DR 836 National Disability Services  
DR 848 WA Association for Mental Health  
DR 852 Baptistcare  
DR 887 Carers WA  
DR 892 Erik Leopoldt  
DR 906 Perth Home Care Services



As part of our rolling program of campaign events, on Tuesday 2 August, we plan to hold a tea (Disabili-TEA) right across Australia.

This event follows the delivery of the Final Report of the Productivity Commission to the Government on 31 July.

The tea is an opportunity for the community to get together in cities, towns and suburbs right across the nation and flags the start of the next phase of the campaign. We are seeking support from all organisations – big and small – around the country to host teas.

You could also host a tea with your family, friends, neighbours, and carers or you could ask a business or community group you know to host the tea and you could provide a speaker.

It's a great time to keep spreading the NDIS message as well as getting your local Federal MP to the event and to lobby them about the NDIS.

Stay tuned here for more details or contact your state co-ordinator.

### **Campaign Champions come and join us**

Some of you reading this are already wonderful NDIS champions, but we need more.

Champions are both individuals and groups who tell their communities that the NDIS is a vital change that Australia must have if we are to improve the lives of people with disabilities now and in the future and also volunteer for a range of tasks.

We want NDIS Champions to hold informal talks with federal MPs, local councillors, local media, Rotary, Lions, P&C, sports, advocacy and other groups to explain how the NDIS can improve social and economic participation of people with disabilities and their families. We can assist with materials and help to organize meetings or forums that you want in your area. We also need people to help with mass mailouts of materials here at the office.

If you can be part of this and want information and support please contact Geraldine or Mary and see the info below You can download information and toolkits from the Every Australian Counts website at the [Resources Section](http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/resources/), <http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/resources/>

Our appreciation to our recently signed champions the WA Primary Principals Association and the Rare Diseases Community – read about them here

<http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/category/wa/>

### **WHAT WAS SAID AT THE NATIONAL DISABILITY & CARER CONGRESS**

Over 1000 people demonstrated their NDIS solidarity at the National Disability and Carer Congress in Melbourne in early May, sending a clear message to every politician in Australia: *bring on the NDIS!*

### **This is what some of the speakers said on the public record**

**Bill Shorten Assistant Federal Treasurer (ALP)** “It’s not just about social justice. It’s about economic justice as well – not to mention the productivity and sustainability of our national economy. It is about empowerment.”

**Mitch Fifield Shadow Federal Disability Minister (Lib)** “Let me be very unequivocal, the Federal Opposition won’t be looking for ways to put stumbling blocks in the place of a better deal for people with disability. We will be looking for ways to see a new national deal for Australians with disability get up. “

**Simon McKeon Australian of the Year** “It [NDIS] is a good investment for the nation.”

**Richard Di Natale incoming Federal Senator (Green)** “The Greens support the National Disability Insurance Scheme.”

**Mary Wooldridge Minister for Community Services Victoria (Lib)** “Saying that we want an NDIS is one thing but if it is not backed up by actions the better future will remain a mere idea. We have been thinking very hard about what role we can play to make sure the NDIS becomes a reality. We have taken a number of steps to pursue a commitment”.

**Patricia Scott Productivity Commissioner** “The funding of necessary and reasonable support services for people with a disability should be a core function of Government.”

Transcripts available at

<http://www.nds.org.au/presentation/article/30>

### **City to Surf Here we come!**

We are fielding an Every Australian Counts Team at the City to Surf Challenge on 28<sup>th</sup> August this year and we

want you to be part of it as we make a splash in our red campaign t shirts.

**There are lots of divisions: wheelchair; 4km walk/run; 12km walk; 12km run or the half or full marathon. We’ll also need a squad of campaign cheerleaders along the way and**



**at the finish!** So come along, it will be a fun way to get the message out there. All you need to do is register yourself by putting in the team name – Every Australian Counts on the website form. <http://au.eventdirector.net/Public/Reg/regTeams.aspx> No Password needed

Only 85 days to go!

**THE FINAL WORD FROM BARRY MACKINNON, CHAIR EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WA**  
(former Liberal leader and Chair Disability Services Commission)



It is a relief to see that at long last Australians with a disability have become the focus of such a comprehensive Productivity Commission Report and that their basic and crucial support needs have been recognized in a system that

proposes to finally make things right.

While its unlikely that everyone is going to agree with all the recommendations in this report what's now needed as a first step is a commitment by all key decision makers that such a scheme is essential. And its beholden on everyone to find enough common ground to get us to a workable solution as soon as we can.

That's why I would ask everyone supporting the campaign to renew their efforts to influence these politicians and other key figures by visiting or emailing them ; by signing as many people to the website as you can and by getting involved in all the campaign activities such as the Disibilitea and the like. I also urge you to take part in our public meeting on getting WA ready for an NDIS on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity



[www.everyaustraliancounts.org.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.org.au)



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