



**Mental Health
Australia**
Media release

Mental Health Australia welcomes the release of the NDIS review

7 December 2023

Mental Health Australia has long advocated for changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to better support people with psychosocial disability and, with the release of the Independent Review into the NDIS Report today, is pleased to see recommendations of the Review focus on improving service provision for people with psychosocial disability.

Mental Health Australia CEO, Carolyn Nikoloski says the Review recommendations reflect feedback from the mental health sector.

“Significantly, there has been an acknowledgment in the Review of long-standing issues with a lack of a recovery-oriented approach in the NDIS, issues with NDIS models not supporting a recovery-oriented psychosocial workforce, and a lack of psychosocial supports outside the NDIS,” Ms Nikoloski says.

“These issues were raised in our initial submission with sector partners to the Review. Mental Health Australia urges the Australian Government, together with state and territory governments, to implement recommendations of the Review to address these major concerns.”

Mental Health Australia strongly supports:

- the new approach to NDIS supports for people with psychosocial disability, focussed on personal recovery, with full implementation of the already agreed NDIS Psychosocial Disability Recovery-Oriented Framework;
- establishment of an integrated complex care coordination approach with public mental health systems for participants with complex needs;
- foundational supports with a focus on early intervention; and
- improved quality standards, training, and pricing arrangements for service providers.

“The Review adds further weight to work already underway by governments to scope the gap in psychosocial supports outside the NDIS, recommending that National Cabinet should agree to jointly invest in psychosocial supports outside the NDIS to assist people with severe and persistent mental ill-health currently unable to access supports. Mental Health Australia strongly supports this urgent recommendation, to be delivered under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement,” Ms Nikoloski says.



“The Review’s support for the inclusion of service navigators and use of outreach to better engage and support people with a psychosocial disability will be viewed positively by many in the sector who have argued for increased support in these areas in the past.

“The success of these recommendations in improving the experience of people with psychosocial disability is dependent on the quality of implementation. This can be supported by ensuring that the NDIA is well equipped to deliver on these reforms; embedding the views and expertise of people with lived experience, and their families, supporters and carers, in the development, implementation and governance arrangements to support delivery of the changes; ensuring there is adequate funding to support design and implementation both within the NDIS and outside of it by all governments; and carefully considering the timing and interdependencies of reform measures.”

Mental Health Australia will continue to advocate independently and work with governments to support implementation of reforms that improve supports and services for people with a psychosocial disability, and their families, supporters and carers.

Mental Health Australia will consider the details of the recommendations in further detail, along with the broader sector.

ENDS

Mental Health Australia CEO Carolyn Nikoloski is available for interviews

View Mental Health Australia’s submission to the NDIS Review here:

<https://mhaustralia.org/submission/joint-submission-national-disability-insurance-scheme-review>

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