



## **THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP**

Minister for Families and Social Services

## **THE HON SARAH HENDERSON MP**

Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

21 March 2019

## **Morrison Government commits over \$165 million to extend support to people transitioning to the NDIS**

The Liberal National Government is investing over \$165 million to extend funding to providers to support the transition of people in Commonwealth funded programs to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for up to 12 months to 30 June 2020.

Federal Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher, said that as the NDIS rolls out, it has become clear that additional time is required to help some people in Commonwealth programs transition to the NDIS.

“Service providers have been working hard to help their clients transition to the NDIS, with over 50,000 people having already moved from Commonwealth programs into the NDIS”.

“This is significant, and I acknowledge the work done by providers around the country, but I also recognise that for some people, the transition to the NDIS is harder than for others”.

“Several of the 14 Commonwealth programs support some of our most vulnerable Australians such as children with hearing and vision impairment in remote and regional areas, people with psychosocial disability, and people with younger onset dementia”.

“The Government is taking a flexible and responsive approach to the NDIS transition. This is a big change and it’s important to get it right,” Mr Fletcher said.

Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services, Sarah Henderson, said the extension of funding would take into account the different stages of the NDIS roll out across the country.

“Some providers in Western Australia and parts of the Northern Territory will receive full funding until 30 June 2020 to ensure people are supported until the NDIS is fully rolled out in these two states from 1 July 2020”.

“Existing clients of Commonwealth programs who are found ineligible for the NDIS will also receive Continuity of Support under these extension arrangements”.

“In other words, existing clients who are ineligible for the NDIS will continue to be supported to achieve similar outcomes, even if the arrangements for doing that change over time,” Ms Henderson said.

At full scheme, the NDIS will support an estimated 460,000 people with disability.

More information about the programs is available at [www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/transitioning-to-the-ndis](http://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/transitioning-to-the-ndis).

**ENDS**

**Media contact:**

Minister Fletcher: Brooke Leembruggen 0447 743 835 [brooke.leembruggen@dss.gov.au](mailto:brooke.leembruggen@dss.gov.au)

Assistant Minister Henderson: Bree Willsmore 0475 975 778 [bree.willsmore@dss.gov.au](mailto:bree.willsmore@dss.gov.au)

## **Further Background for Media**

The following programs with clients transitioning to the NDIS will be extended to 30 June 2020:

- Disability Employment Assistance (Australian Disability Enterprises)
- Work Based Personal Assistance
- National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service
- Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability
- Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children
- Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program

The Helping Children with Autism and Better Start for Children with Disability programs include individualised funding for early intervention services as well as a number of education and support services, which will be extended to 30 June 2020.

For clients of the following transitioning carer programs, funding will be extended to 30 November 2019 to provide coverage ahead of the implementation of the Integrated Carer Support Service in September 2019:

- Mental Health Respite: Carer Support
- Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability
- Young Carers Respite and Information Services

Clients of the following mental health programs will be supported to transition through the Primary Health Networks to 30 June 2020:

- Partners in Recovery
- Personal Helpers and Mentors
- Support for Day to Day Living in the Community

The Continence Aids Payment Scheme and the Hearing Services Program, administered by the Department of Health, are ongoing programs and do not require extensions.