



Tuesday 25 March 2025, 9pm

People With Disability Invisible in Federal Budget

Media Statement from Australia's Disability Representative Organisations

List of spokespeople available for media interviews across Australia is below

Tonight's Federal Budget raises more questions than answers about how people with disability are going to be supported through the government's major reforms to the NDIS.

Cuts to the NDIS have been outlined, as expected, with the Federal Government projecting almost \$1 billion in immediate savings over the next financial year.

\$364.5 million has been set aside for general supports - to fund services for those no longer eligible for the NDIS. This is the first time a dollar value has been provided, and it's positive to see. Yet the Budget does not outline whether or not this funding is contingent on states and territories matching it. Cutting the NDIS without establishing robust alternatives is leaving people with disability with nowhere to turn.

Disability support services are not optional – they are essential for daily life. People with disability rely on them to get out of bed, shower, go to work or school, and participate in their communities. Without adequate support, people with disability face disproportionate poverty, cost-of-living pressures, and exclusion.

In key Budget cost-of-living measures, people living with disability are absent. In Australia's housing strategy, there is no mention of accessibility.

People with disability are missing in this budget. Just 18 months after Australia's 'landmark' 4-year \$600 million Disability Royal Commission, it is like it never happened.

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability was billed as a transformative opportunity for our community to be heard. Yet in this Budget, it hasn't even rated a mention.

People living with disability appear largely invisible in the Federal Government's financial path forward for Australia. Are we really back here?

THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY:

- Australian Autism Alliance (AAA)
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)
- Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)
- Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA)
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)
- Down Syndrome Australia (DSA)
- First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN)
- Inclusion Australia (IA)
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA)
- People with Disability Australia (PWDA)
- Physical Disability Australia (PDA)
- Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA).

INTERVIEWEES AVAILABLE:

- Sophie Cusworth, CEO - Women With Disabilities Australia (Melbourne, VIC)
- Megan Spindler-Smith, Deputy CEO - People with Disability Australia (Canberra ACT)
- Jenny Karavolos, Independent Co-Chair - Australian Autism Alliance (Adelaide SA)
- Skye Kakoschke-Moore, CEO - Children and Young People with Disability Australia (Adelaide SA)
- Darryl Steff, CEO - Down Syndrome Australia (Brisbane QLD)
- Catherine McAlpine, CEO - Inclusion Australia (Melbourne VIC)
- Jeff Smith, CEO - Disability Advocacy Network Australia (Sydney NSW)
- Priscilla Brice, CEO - National Mental Health Consumer Alliance (Sydney NSW)
- Damian Griffis, CEO - First Peoples' Disability Network (Melbourne VIC)
- Ross Joyce, CEO - Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (Regional VIC)
- Jeremy Muir, CEO - Physical Disability Australia (Brisbane QLD)

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