

Recommendations

Provision of services under the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities

Recommendation 1

2.66 The committee recommends the NDIA immediately commit resources to work with the mental health sector to refine the psychosocial disability stream before it is rolled out nationally to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

Recommendation 2

2.68 The committee recommends the NDIA immediately commit resources to provide additional training in mental health to staff and planners to rollout the psychosocial disability stream nationally during 2019.

Recommendation 3

2.72 The committee recommends the Australian Government extend funding for PIR, PHaMs and D2DL programs until 30 June 2021 and make public by 30 June 2020 how it intends to deliver longer-term arrangements for existing program clients not eligible for the NDIS.

Recommendation 4

2.74 The committee recommends the Council of Australian Government (COAG) conduct an audit of all Australian, state and territory services, programs and associated funding available for mental health.

Provision of services under the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach

Recommendation 5

2.124 The committee recommends the NDIA immediately commit the necessary resources to address the delays experienced by families to access services under the ECEI pathway.

Recommendation 6

2.126 The committee recommends the NDIA introduce Key Performance Indicators for its ECEI partners that stipulate a maximum time to complete each step of the access, planning and plan approval processes to ensure all eligible children have an approved plan ready for implementation within three months of being in contact with an ECEI partner.

Recommendation 7

2.127 The committee recommends the NDIA report on how long it takes for eligible children to get a plan under the ECEI pathway as part of its Quarterly Reports.

Recommendation 8

2.129 The committee recommends that an evaluation of the pricing of Early Childhood Intervention services is undertaken as part of the next annual NDIS pricing review.

Recommendation 9

2.131 The committee recommends the NDIA develop, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Intervention sector, an Early Childhood Intervention strategy that sets a national and consistent approach to the delivery of Early Childhood Intervention services under the NDIS.

Transitional arrangements for the NDIS

Recommendation 10

2.180 The committee recommends the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council agree to put in place a formal mechanism that ensures a person-first principle is applied in the delivery of services in the event of funding disputes between the NDIA and mainstream services.

Recommendation 11

2.183 The committee recommends NDIA start trialling alternatives to a fee-for-service delivery model to address thin markets in rural and remote areas by the end of 2019.

Recommendation 12

2.186 The committee recommends the NDIA make public how it will ensure provision of services in case of market failure in rural and remote areas.

Recommendation 13

2.189 The committee recommends the NDIA establish within the Complex Needs pathway a unit in each jurisdiction responsible for coordinating and ensuring crisis service provision.

Provision of hearing services under the NDIS

Recommendation 14

2.212 The committee recommends the NDIA ensure that the hearing referral pathway delivered by Australian Hearing is available to all children.

Recommendation 15

2.214 The committee recommends Australian Hearing be formally appointed as the independent referral pathway for access to early intervention services under the NDIS on an ongoing basis, and funded appropriately for this role.

Disability workforce

Recommendation 16

3.17 The committee recommends the NDIA consider how to better reflect in its pricing of supports the additional administration and professional development costs associated with operating in the NDIS environment as part of the next annual NDIS pricing review.

Recommendation 17

3.34 The committee recommends that the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission urgently review the impact of its regulatory requirements on sole providers and small to medium sized businesses providing disability services and report to the parliament on its findings.

NDIA engagement with the disability sector

Recommendation 18

3.58 The committee recommends the Australian Government consider adding to the Guiding Principles of the NDIS Act, a further principle aimed at ensuring that the NDIA systematically engage and collaborate with the disability sector and people with disability in the development and review of its operational plans and guidelines.

