



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AUTISM SPECTRUM COMMUNITY

THE NDIS CAMPAIGN

What is the NDIS?

On 31 July 2011, the Australian Productivity Commission will hand a final report to the Australian Government into a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that aims to help make the system fairer for all Australians with a disability.

What did the Productivity Commission say?

The Productivity Commission said that “The disability support ‘system’ is inequitable, underfunded, fragmented, inefficient and gives people with a disability little choice. It provides no certainty that people will be able to access appropriate supports when needed.” It also recommends a significant increase in the annual budget allocated to disability services across Australia, in fact doubling from \$6 billion to \$12 billion.

What happens now?

Once the Australian Government receive the report, they are required to respond by 23 November 2011. The next few months presents a real opportunity to impact change before the government makes a final decision on how to support Australians with disabilities in the future.

Where do people with autism fit?

There are still many unanswered questions for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families about the proposed scheme. There are certainly some concerns. You can see the submission by the Australian Advisory Board on the draft [report here](#) . It highlights some of the concerns that we have.

What are the benefits?

Every day and all across Australia, each and every one of us strive to ensure that people living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder achieve their potential. Regardless of who we are and what we do, we all know that there is never enough funding to make sure that everyone with an Autism Spectrum Disorder can access essential support, therapy, equipment, early intervention and training. People with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families must have greater choice and control about the type of services they receive and how their funding is spent.

What can we do?

“Every Australian Counts” is an exciting national campaign that aims to ensure that the Australian Government accept the recommendations of the Productivity Commission. We encourage you to be part of this campaign because we know:

- Young children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder have a right to the best start in life
- Students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder deserve to be able to access the best education



Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

- People with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families should be able to choose where and how they live
- People with an Autism Spectrum Disorder can learn, work and enjoy an ordinary life and have the right to do so.

You can get involved today.

Join many other Australians by signing up [online](#) to show that you know how important this change is for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. You might even pass on information about the campaign website to others and alert them to how they too could be involved. You also may want to think about getting involved in campaign by meeting with your local federal member of parliament to explain why people with an ASD must be included in the NDIS by sharing what's happened in your family. The NDIS web site has some handy hints about how to approach such a meeting.

To find out a bit more about the campaign, [watch John Della Bosca](#) talk about the campaign plan and what you can do.

Thanks for your support.



The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders is the national peak body representing people who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families, carers and helpers. Through its members, the Advisory Board represents a significant number of Australian citizens who live with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and who are members of, or who obtain services from, the Advisory Board's member organisations.

For more information go to our website www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au .Contact can be made with the Board via your respective state or territory organisation:



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