



# Update

***Media Release: - Thursday February 17th 2011***

**The next meeting of the Disability Speaks Steering committee will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Disability Information Resource Centre (DIRC)  
As usual this is an open meeting and all are invited**

With the expected release of the first draft of the Australian Productivity Commission Report on Disability services due in the next fortnight it is important we have a coordinated approach to promoting what is the biggest opportunity for quantum change to disability services in decades. The fight however will not be easy. The Federal Political scene is dominated by national disasters, big new taxes and politicians who because of a hung parliament are more focused on spin than outcomes. We look forward to your support.

The E Blast below from NDS was encouraging. The attached file from Minda Inc about a highly professional development day based on Person centred Planning reminds us that in the end this all must be about people having access to and personal choices for disability services. The Minda session is well worth your attendance.

**NDIS** National Disability Insurance Scheme  
Notes from the campaign

## **COAG endorses the National Disability Strategy**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has endorsed the [National Disability Strategy](#).

NDS welcomes this commitment by Australian governments to a cross-portfolio approach to improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers. For a long time the sector has discussed the need for a cohesive and whole-of-government approach to advancing the inclusion of people with disability; but never before have all government leaders signed up to such an approach. Getting government agencies broadly to give serious

consideration to how their policies and practices can be responsive to disability issues will continue to be difficult; but without the explicit support of the heads of government it would be impossible.

The 10-year Strategy focuses on six broad outcome areas:

- inclusive and accessible communities;
- rights protection, justice and legislation;
- economic security;
- personal and community support;
- learning and skills; and
- health and wellbeing.

Work will now begin on the development of important implementation and evaluation plans; consultations are expected to occur over the coming year.

The monitoring and reporting of progress against the Strategy will occur after the first 12 months and then at two-yearly intervals. Work has begun to identify and develop robust indicators of progress, but further work is required to ensure they are adequate and appropriate measures.

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