



MEDIA RELEASE

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Full rollout of NDIS essential for people with mental illness

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) joined the growing number of people and organisations across the nation to plead with the Coalition Government to honour its commitment to the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Recent comments by Coalition leaders, including the Prime Minister and the Treasurer, have cast doubt on the Government's continuing commitment to NDIS.

CMHA president Paul Senior said: "While we understand the fiscal pressures that the Government may be facing in coming years, we ask the Government to remember that people with disabilities in this country, including those with psycho social disability related to mental illness, have had to endure decades of poverty, inadequate support and social exclusion. Australia owes it to all people to redress the serious disadvantages that dealing with a disability can bring".

Mr Senior called on the Government to listen to the caution conveyed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council and the NDIS chairman Bruce Bonyhady.

"All state and territory governments remain committed to NDIS, and Mr Bonyhady has said it is far too early to judge the scheme," Mr Senior said. "The Scheme needs to be evaluated in the launch sites and we have the assurance from the National Disability Insurance Agency that it is analysing the costs. We ask the Government to let these processes run their course."

The CAOG Disability Reform Council, the Agency and most other organisations providing services and supports in the disability and psychosocial disability sectors realised getting the cost structure right so early in the development of NDIS was going to be very hard to achieve.

"The Government must remain patient and allow the NDIS rollout to proceed according to the agreed timeframe, and it must remain flexible with regard to cost, to ensure that people with disability, including those with psycho social disability, are not further disadvantaged," Mr Senior said.

About CMHA

Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) is a coalition of the eight state and territory peak community mental health organisations, established to provide leadership and direction promoting the benefits of community mental health and recovery services across Australia. The prime roles and purpose of CMHA is to provide a voice and represent the community managed mental health sector in national initiatives; enhance the capacity of coalition members to represent, support and strengthen the non-government community mental health sector; and collaborate to develop joint policy and advocacy that promotes community mental health at national and state/territory levels.

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