

**9 January 2013**

## **CARERS ENCOURAGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON THE NDIS**

With submissions to the NDIS Senate Inquiry closing on 25 January, carers are being encouraged to submit their recommendations or concerns to the committee.

Carers NSW CEO, Elena Katrakis said it is important for carers to be involved in shaping the scheme which will be rolled out in five trial sites from July this year.

“While it is encouraging that we have an NDIS Bill, it is important to remember that we want the right NDIS for carers and the people they care for.”

“One area of concern for us is that the Bill does not currently include provisions for carer assessments. It is vital that this is included to ensure that the legislation complies with the principles set out in the *Carer Recognition Act 2010*.”

“Carers play a vital role in the lives of many people with disabilities so it is important that their needs and circumstances are taken into account when determining the type and level of support they require under the NDIS.”

“It is crucial that the opinions and concerns of carers are taken into account during the review process and are reflected in the legislation.”

In the recent Carers NSW 2012 Carer Survey, more than half of those surveyed said that they would take the option of managing individualised funding themselves if it were available.

However, many carers were concerned about how managing their own funding could affect finding and organising services.

Ms Katrakis said, “The results of the Carers NSW 2012 Carer Survey indicate that the majority of carers would opt for individualised funding, which would be provided by the NDIS, however there are some concerns around the complexity of the system and the time it will take to find and organise support services.”

Ms Katrakis is encouraging all carers who would like to submit feedback or concerns to the NDIS Senate Committee to lodge a submission.

“With just two weeks to go until submissions close, I urge all carers who would like to provide feedback to make a submission to the NDIS Senate Committee before the deadline.”

“A scheme of this magnitude requires close collaboration so it is my hope that all interested groups and individuals will have their say and play an active role in the development of this historic legislation.”

Those who are interested in lodging a submission can do so through the Australian Parliament’s website at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate\\_Committees?url=clac\\_ctte/ndis/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=clac_ctte/ndis/index.htm)

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