



Western Australia and the National Disability Insurance Scheme: My Way

The existing Western Australian disability services system has evolved through 25 years of bi-partisan reform and funding growth. The current system is recognised nationally and internationally for its focus on individualised funding, developing local relationships and for the support provided to people through the network of Local Area Coordinators. In its 2011 **Disability Care and Support** report, the Productivity Commission recommended that these features of the Western Australian system be adopted nationally through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Despite these achievements, further work is needed to give people with disability, their families and carers genuine choice and control in their lives. To take this next step in the reform journey, the Western Australian Government has announced a three year project, My Way to:

- Support individuals, families and carers to take control in designing and managing their supports and services, to the extent they desire.
- Work in close partnership with the disability sector, professional service providers, community based organisations, local government and state government departments to foster commitment to self-directed services. This is particularly the case for the Mental Health Commission, which will partner with the Disability Services Commission to progress the My Way initiative.
- Remove structural (program funding and accountability) mechanisms that unnecessarily restrict flexibility and hence real choice.
- Support the cultural change required to ensure decision making is placed in the hands of people with disability, families and carers.

The project will be implemented in four areas across Western Australia: the Goldfields, the Lower South West, Cockburn/Kwinana, and the Perth Hills. People with disability who live in these areas and currently receive Disability Services Commission provided and funded services will be invited to participate in the project. Involvement in the project will be voluntary and those who wish to continue with their current arrangements will have this option. The Mental Health Commission will also work to ensure that people with a psychiatric disability can participate in the project.

My Way Coordinators will be located both in government and non-government community based organisations to enable true choice for people with disability and facilitate partnerships across the sector.

The level of access to supports, services and funding will be determined by current eligibility and access guidelines. However, if the Commonwealth Government agrees to use the My Way sites as NDIS launch sites (see Fact Sheet 2), significant additional funding will be available. Access to supports, services and funding would be determined by nationally consistent eligibility criteria and rules around what support people get.

Further information on the My Way project is available at: http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/disability_reform/my_way.html