

Policy Document



NDIS & Mental Health

Australians deserve an NDIS that truly supports those in need. As an Independent Candidate for the 2025 Federal Election, I am committed to advocating for a system that prioritises individuals and families over bureaucracy and corporate interests. The current NDIS is failing too many people, with inefficiencies, excessive red tape, and vested interests undermining its original purpose. We need a fundamental reset—one that removes political interference and ensures the system serves the community, not the other way around.

The Challenges We Face

Despite the goodwill of the Australian people towards individuals with disabilities and mental health conditions, our support systems remain broken. Governments have consistently failed to make community inclusion a reality. The NDIS and mental health services continue to be provider-centric, fragmented, and difficult to navigate. Businesses and schools often want to help but lack the guidance to implement inclusive practices effectively.

The lack of independent leadership in disability and mental health reform has left decision-making in the hands of service providers, consultants, and bureaucrats—many of whom are more focused on maintaining their own interests than delivering genuine change. This has led to a system that prioritises corporate-style governance over person-centred support.

Two key problems have remained unresolved for decades:

- 1. Failure to Build Support Systems Around Families and Communities** – The system treats paid, formal support as primary and unpaid, informal care from families and friends as secondary. This ideological flaw contributes to NDIS's unsustainability.
- 2. Lack of an Independent Representative Voice** – People with disabilities and mental health conditions, along with their families, have been sidelined in shaping policy. Instead, vested interests in the industry continue to control decision-making.

Until these issues are addressed, the system will remain inefficient, expensive, and out of touch with the real needs of Australians. My policy agenda is built on bold and practical reforms that shift the system from provider-focused services to truly person- and family-centred supports.

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Policy Agenda for NDIS and Mental Health Reform

1. Individual Support Coordination and Advocacy Package

- Every person with a diagnosed disability or mental illness (whether an NDIS participant or not) will be entitled to a \$10,000 annual support package. This can be used to hire a Support Coordinator of their choice, access a personalised management tool, and engage an independent advocate.
- This initiative will initially support 800,000 people, at a cost of \$8 billion.

2. Peer Networks and Circles of Support

- Participation in local Networks of Peers (8-10 individuals) or Circles of Support (family and community networks) will be a condition for accessing the package. These teams will replace ineffective Local Area Coordination in the NDIS, ensuring real, personalised support.

3. Empowering Individuals to Select Their Own Support Coordinators

- Individuals can appoint a family member, accountant, personal coach, or community worker as their Support Coordinator, moving away from corporate-run service providers.

4. Person-Controlled Information & Management Tools

- Every person with a diagnosed disability or mental illness will have access to a digital management tool to track meetings, decisions, and transactions related to their care, enhancing transparency and control.

5. Independent Advocacy Funding

- Individuals can allocate part of their support package to an advocate or advocacy group of their choice, removing the current system where governments select which organisations represent people with disabilities.

6. NDIS Act Reform for a Person-Centred Approach

- The NDIS Act will be revised to ensure participants, not bureaucrats, have control over their support plans. Key reforms include:
 - Plans designed by participants and families, not the NDIS CEO.
 - NDIA's role limited to determining funding, not controlling individual plans.
 - Service providers must choose between managing funding or providing supports, preventing conflicts of interest.

7. Choice & Control in Plan Management

- The default option for NDIS participants will be self-management unless they opt for agency management, preventing coercion from service providers.

8. Greater Transparency in NDIS Operations

- NDIS must publicly disclose appeal outcomes, cost breakdowns, and executive salaries, creating a more accountable and open system.

9. Family Support Entitlement

- Families caring for an NDIS participant at home will receive financial support equivalent to six weeks of services, plus a \$100 advocacy voucher to fund independent representation.

10. Housing to Be Removed from NDIS

- The inclusion of housing in NDIS has driven up costs and created inequities. Housing should be managed separately through targeted state and federal programs.

11. Support for Employment & Small Business Development

- A \$5,000 per year Small/Micro-Business Development Grant (for up to three years) will be introduced to help individuals with disabilities or mental illnesses establish self-employment opportunities.

12. Incentives for Inclusive Hiring

- A Social Inclusion Corporate Tax Rate of 15% will be introduced for businesses with 20% or more employees who are people with disabilities, mental illnesses, or those excluded from the workforce long-term.

13. School Funding for Students with Disabilities

- State education funding for students with disabilities should go directly to families, allowing them to choose the most suitable support rather than leaving decisions solely to schools.

14. Early Education & Childcare Funding

- Families of children with disabilities should receive direct funding for early education and childcare, ensuring their specific needs are met.

15. A New Name for NDIS

- The NDIS is not an insurance scheme. To reflect its true purpose, it should be renamed the National Disability Investment Scheme.

A Vision for Real Change

For too long, disability and mental health reform has been driven by bureaucrats and service providers rather than the people it is meant to support. My plan prioritises individuals, families, and communities by cutting red tape, improving transparency, and ensuring funding reaches those who need it most.

I am standing as an Independent because I believe meaningful reform can only come from outside the major party system. If elected, I will fight for a system that is fair, efficient, and genuinely centred on the needs of individuals and families.

It's time to put people before politics and rebuild the NDIS and mental health services to work for all Australians.

YOUR Vote, YOUR Voice...

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