

ALLIANCE20 PRIORITIES FOR THE NDIS





Alliance20 - Key priority Areas

1. Scheme Sustainability

- The scheme is an investment in Australia and all Australians and provides significant and major social and economic returns to all of us.
- People with disability cannot be placed in the position where they are fearful of their plans being reduced or the scheme being cut.
- The scheme must be efficient and effective with clear and streamlined processes, including how participants obtain plans, plan reviews and how funds are paid. Discussion on the sustainability of the NDIS needs to be transparent and include real input from all stakeholders, including providers.

2. Fixing Supported Independent Living – and moving to new Home and Living Options

- Accessing SIL services is complex and difficult for participants. Furthermore, in some areas, particularly where services were previously operated by state governments, SIL services need modernisation with transparent funding arrangements.
- Participants and service providers consistently report that changes are made to individual plans and funding allocations are reduced without notice. This is causing considerable concern to participants and unviable service provision for providers.
- Participants in SIL services, particularly those with the highest needs, need to be able to access contemporary Home and Living supports.
- Alliance20 welcomes the SIL changes announced on 6 April 2022 as important steps in the ongoing reforms.

3. Fairer and Transparent Pricing Arrangements and Processes

- Participants and providers find the pricing arrangements complex and confusing. The funding processes are similarly complicated and opaque.
- Providers report that the cost of doing business is overly burdensome with significant time spent on administrative processes.
- The pricing regime that underpins the NDIS is not independent of the NDIA. Many prices do not meet the needs of people with the highest needs.
- In respect of financial support for emergency situations (such as Covid-19 or weather-related events) clear criteria to facilitate a percentage increase in prices is required.

4. Improve Rural/Remote Services

- Significant challenges remain for the NDIS in rural and remote communities. The NDIS design and administrative processes are not compatible with the needs of these areas.
- Service providers, alongside a range of participants and community groups, have significant knowledge and experience to assist – new ideas and fresh thinking is needed.
- Joint planning, coordination and collaboration between the NDIA, service providers, participants and their guardians is urgently needed



5. Enhanced Employment Outcomes for People with Disability

The value of work and careers cannot be understated. The work of the NDIA and government agencies underway to address this issue is supported. More work needs to be done on the co-ordination of programs and long-standing but stalled reforms for Australian Disability Enterprises. Alliance20 organisations are able to participate in all forums on this issue.

6. A Strong Disability Workforce

The NDIS needs a strong and skilled workforce. An additional 83,000 full time (equivalent) disability workers are required to fully implement the NDIS. The disability sector must be an attractive sector for skilled people to provide quality supports to people with disability. Alliance20 is represented on key groups addressing workforce issues and will continue to work to provide great jobs and careers for staff, which in turn, will provide great services for people with disability.

7. Enhanced Quality and Safeguarding Measures

Alliance20 organisations support people with the highest and most complex needs across Australia. We engage with and are represented on various NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission groups. We will continue this engagement to address a number of important and ongoing reforms and initiatives.

8. Emergency and Disaster Response Arrangements

Alliance20 organisations have worked alongside a number of government and non-government agencies to address challenges posed by Covid-19 and recent weather events. While we fully support the range of measures that have proactively and reactively assisted participants dealing with these measures, we will continue to engage with government to address issues such as:

- Improved funding processes needed to respond to emergency situations
- Planning and rolling out vaccinations
- Proactive measures to assist joint planning involving participants and providers
- Assisting with liaison with local, federal, state/territory and community agencies.