

19 May 2011

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MEDIA RELEASE

Funding commitment will strengthen services for West Australians with a disability

NDS WA welcomes today's budget commitment by the Premier in which Disability service organisations will receive a 15% increase in state government funding for service agreements from 1 July 2011, on top of cost of living indexation. In addition an average of 10% additional funding will be passed on in future years commencing 2013-14 as contracts are reviewed in line with government procurement reform.

NDS WA commends the Premier and his Government on this landmark State Budget initiative which will improve services to West Australians with a disability and their families.

NDS WA State Manager, Terry Simpson, said "This budget will support people with disabilities and their families by building the capacity of organisations to meet the growing need for disability support services in our community".

The additional funding acknowledges the important work of disability sector staff and the significant impact they have on the lives of people with a disability.

Disability sector staff work very closely and form important bonds with the people they support. Frequent staff turnover can be very unsettling for people with a disability and their families.

Through these budget measures, the disability sector will now be better positioned to attract, recruit and retain qualified and experienced staff. In doing so, this initiative directly benefits some of the most vulnerable people in our community. It strengthens services to provide continuity of care. It also supports and builds the capacity and capability of organisations to meet the growing need for services in our community.

"This landmark decision will benefit West Australians by supporting the sustainability and growth of disability services and the retention of staff within the disability sector" according to NDS WA State Manager, Terry Simpson.



NDS WA also welcomes other budget initiatives, including:

- an additional \$95 million dollars capital funding over three years for housing for people with a disability;
- an extra \$41 million over four years for growth in demand for disability services; and
- an extra \$18 million over three years for additional accommodation support funding.

NDS WA commends the Premier and his Government on this unprecedented collaboration with the disability sector to strengthen and build services which are vital to people with a disability and their families.

Disability affects one-third of the Western Australian population.

An estimated total of 405,500 Western Australians have a disability and approximately 246,800 Western Australians are carers for people with a disability.

-ENDS-

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