

Budget Briefing with Ken Baker

This year's Federal Budget reflects the lessons of the 2014 Budget.

The Federal Government will **increase the Medicare Levy from 2.0% to 2.5% from July 2019** to fund the NDIS.

Medicare Levy changes will need to pass both Houses of Parliament.

2.5%



NDIS Quality & Safeguards

\$209M over 4 years

for an independent statutory authority to:

- manage registration
- investigate complaints
- oversee restrictive practices



Mental Health

\$80M over 4 years

(matched by state funding) will maintain (some) community mental health services outside the NDIS – a fairly modest contribution.



Workforce

\$33M over 3 years for workforce coordinators and /small grants will assist disability and aged care providers in regional areas.

\$1.5B Skilling Australians

Fund will support apprenticeships in industries experiencing skills shortages.



DES Reforms

Reform timeline is extended.

Providers (including new providers) will bid to operate in one or more of 110 ESAs.

Indexation will be applied annually from July 2019.



DSP and FBT

DSP population has fallen almost 7% since June 2012.

The Treasurer proposes “*denying welfare for a disability caused solely by their own substance abuse*”.

FBT rate will increase which could affect salary packaging.

