

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

#### NDIS update

- 1. According to your figures, the Office of Disability Services will reduce staff by 78 once NDIS is fully functional (1 July) - what will happen to the 78 staff?**

Some staff were on temporary contracts, which have not been renewed. A small number of staff have requested voluntary redundancies. Remaining permanent staff have been unattached from those positions that ceased on 30 June 2019. Those staff are being supported to find ongoing roles within NT Health.

- 2. What is the NTG doing to encourage more disability services in the Northern Territory?**

During the transition phase to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Northern Territory Government (NTG) was successful in sourcing funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services for sector development in the Northern Territory (NT). This funding was used to support projects and grants aimed at developing provider readiness; innovative solutions to thin markets in remote locations; and projects that promoted community capacity building and resource development.

Prior to the NDIS, the NT funded 36 disability service providers to provide a range of supports to Territorians with disability. As of 31 May 2019, there were a total of 840 service providers registered to provide NDIS supports in the NT. Of those 840, 159 are actively providing NDIS supports to Territorians.

During negotiations with the Commonwealth Government for the Bilateral Agreement for Full Scheme NDIS, the NTG negotiated key market development elements to be included in the Agreement. .

**3. What has been the total cost of the implementation of NDIS in the Northern Territory?**

\$100 772 955.

**4. What measures has the NTG implemented to help NGOs overcome the paperwork burden created by the NDIS?**

Meeting defined quality and safeguarding requirements is a key requirement for NDIS Service Providers who wish to provide supports to NDIS Participants. From 1 July 2019, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission is the responsible agency for ensuring quality and safeguarding arrangements for NDIS Service Providers.

Prior to 1 July 2019, during the transition phase, the NT developed the NT Quality and Safeguarding Framework to assist service providers in meeting the quality and safeguard requirements of the NDIS. This work included sector-readiness forums and workshops; the provision of business consultants to assist service providers to adapt to the new NDIS environment; and the provision of tools and resources to assist service providers with business processes.

Post 1 July 2019, the NT is contributing to work that is being led by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in the development of strategies to improve pathways for service providers in the NT.

**5. What input does the NTG have on the development of a remote model taking into account the complexities of delivering services in remote Aboriginal communities?**

A key focus of the NT Transition plan has been to identify and promote Aboriginal economic participation and workforce development strategies. The NT has negotiated key market and workforce elements into the

Bilateral Agreement to ensure market development is continued to be prioritised.

Post transition, the NT is contributing to the work that is being led by the NDIA on the development of a Regional Remote Markets Strategy. The NDIA has engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting to conduct a Thin Markets Consultation in the Barkly region, to inform the Strategy.

The NT will continue through the Senior Official Working Groups and the Disability Reform Council to advocate for increased Aboriginal economic participation and workforce development strategies for remote Aboriginal communities.

**6. What role, if any, does the NTG have in providing continuity of support for people found to be ineligible for NDIS?**

The Office of Disability is continuing to provide health services and supports for adults and children who are ineligible for the NDIS.

Types of support include:

- Allied Health Services
  - Physiotherapy
  - Speech Therapy
  - Occupational Therapy
- Community Equipment for people who have a functional impairment and rely on equipment to assist them in everyday life.
- Seating Equipment Assessment and Technical service, which provides clinical and technical assessments and supports to wheelchair users, families and carers.