

COAG Disability Reform Council

3 March 2017

Statement

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council (the Council) met today. The focus of the meeting was on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) transition and the implementation of the National Disability Strategy. The Council acknowledged the significant efforts made by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and all governments to ensure that implementation of the NDIS delivers on outcomes for people with disability, their families and carers, and that transition from state and territory systems to the NDIS is efficient and effective.

The Council welcomed the new Chairman of the NDIA Board, Dr Helen Nugent AO and Mr David Bowen, Chief Executive Officer, to discuss progress on NDIS transition implementation. The Council noted that, as at 31 December 2016, the number of participants with approved plans has increased to 63,482, including children referred to the Early Childhood, Early Intervention gateway. This is a doubling of NDIS participants since the end of trial in June 2016. Significant improvement has also been made for providers, with successful payments averaging over 96 percent.

The Council agreed to provide the NDIA Board a Statement of Strategic Guidance to sets out the Council's expectations for the Board in managing transition, with a focus on participant experience and outcomes and the management of risks and the financial sustainability of the NDIS.

The Council noted a key risk to NDIS implementation is the development of a market to ensure the supply of quality supports and workforce to NDIA participants. The Council endorsed the work to support the NDIS market and development of the national NDIS quality and safeguarding system. The Council agreed to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor market development and performance and to identify immediate and emerging market risks.

In September 2016, the Council agreed to reinvigorate all governments' effort to drive progress under the National Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020. Today, the Council noted the commitment and efforts by all governments to implement the Strategy through the Second Implementation Plan. In addition to the Strategy's six policy outcome areas and four areas of national cooperation, the Council today agreed to focus on mental health, health and the criminal justice systems to ensure that these systems are effectively supporting all people with a disability in Australia.