

COAG Disability Reform Council

Terms of Reference

Chair	The Commonwealth Minister for Social Services.
Membership	<p>The Disability Reform Council (the Council) consists of a maximum of two ministers from each jurisdiction — one Minister with portfolio responsibility for disability policy and one Minister with portfolio responsibility relating to Treasury).</p> <p>Each jurisdiction will nominate a Senior Minister as lead representative.</p> <p>The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) CEO will attend meetings as required for items nominated by the Chair of the Council. The NDIA Board Chair may attend meetings, at least annually, by invitation of the Council.</p> <p>The Chair may invite representatives from other agencies to participate in specific meetings or discussion, as appropriate.</p>
Operations	<p>The Council will meet twice a year, by TelePresence whenever possible. Further work may be conducted out-of-session.</p> <p>The Council will make decisions in accordance with the NDIS Act, and on the basis of consensus wherever possible. Where consensus cannot be reached, the Council will make decisions on the basis of a majority of members. In these circumstances, jurisdictions in the minority are not bound to implement the decisions that have been made.</p>
Scope of Council responsibility	<p>The Council provides a forum for member Governments to driving national reform in disability policy and implementation, including the National Disability Strategy and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).</p> <p>The Council's work will cover the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure a broad range of reforms are implemented through the National Disability Strategy to establish inclusive and accessible mainstream services and systems for people with disability, their families and carers.• Provide strategic oversight of the transition to full scheme of the NDIS, including oversight of costs and financial sustainability and implementation risks; and• Make recommendations to COAG on the policy framework for the arrangements for full scheme NDIS. <p>The Council will have responsibilities under the <i>National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act 2013</i> (the Act) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider policy matters that relate to the NDIS or arise under the Act, including;<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Views on amendments to the Act; and– Agreement of jurisdictions on NDIS rules.• Advise the Commonwealth Minister about such matters; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make recommendations to COAG about such matters. <p>The Council will have responsibilities for the following intergovernmental agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020;• The <i>Intergovernmental Agreement for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Launch</i> including escalation of issues relating to the Bilateral Agreements with states and territories for the transition phase; and• The National Disability Agreement. <p>The Council will also receive annual progress reports on the National Carer Strategy. The Council will work actively to ensure all mainstream policy, program and service delivery improves outcomes and performance information is in place to monitor the outcomes of the National Carer Strategy.</p> <p>The Council will ensure that clear strategies and other arrangements are in place so that Indigenous people with disability have access to services and facilities and achieve improved outcomes comparable to other people with disability especially in remote and very remote areas.</p> <p>The Council will continue to consider the impact of regulation on individuals, community organisations and business and identify opportunities to reduce or remove this burden, wherever possible.</p>
Review and reporting	<p>The Council will be reviewed annually by COAG against its priorities, including whether there is a continuing need for the Council.</p> <p>The Council will report to COAG annually, and as required, on its progress and to raise issues considered to require First Ministers' attention (such as major decisions and intergovernmental agreements).</p> <p>The Council can also advise COAG on an exceptions basis, especially when its priorities are not progressing satisfactorily.</p>

The Council's priority actions for 2017 are to:

1. Provide policy advice, as appropriate, to COAG with respect to the implementation of the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS).
2. Agree and monitor the NDS second implementation plan, *Driving Action 2015-18*.
3. Monitor implementation and reporting under the National Disability Agreement.
4. Provide advice to COAG on policy issues relevant to transition to full scheme of the NDIS.
5. Consider, and provide advice to COAG where appropriate, all reports and recommendations from the NDIA Board, which include:
 - i) The NDIA Annual report; and
 - ii) NDIA Quarterly Reports on the operation of the NDIA for each period of three months starting on 1 July, 1 October, 1 January or 1 April.
6. Provide an annual report to COAG, by 31 October 2017, that include:
 - i) NDIS performance and participant outcomes;
 - ii) The NDIA's management of costs and financial sustainability, ;
 - iii) Implementation risks and readiness for full scheme;
 - iv) The implementation of the National Quality and Safeguards Framework;
 - v) Market risks and sector and workforce support strategies.
7. Provide advice to COAG, by December 2017, on the report of the 2017 NDIS Productivity Commission Review of Scheme Costs.
8. Agree any necessary arrangements for full scheme by 31 December 2017, including appropriate future arrangements for access to the DisabilityCare Australia Fund.
9. Agree market readiness indicators to enable monitoring of market risks in relation to NDIS implementation, by the 31 March 2017;
10. Review the NDIA's approach to developing and implementing participant plans, with a focus of plan quality and participant experience and outcomes, by July 2017.
11. Monitor the implementation of the Quality and Safeguarding Framework
12. Agree a national approach to NDIS worker screening by 31 December 2017.
13. Review Advocacy arrangements, including roles and responsibilities, by 31 October 2017.