

COAG Disability Reform Council

2014 Terms of Reference

Chair	The Commonwealth Assistant 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 as well as a representative from Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).</p> <p>Each jurisdiction will nominate a Senior Minister as lead representative on the Council.</p> <p>The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) CEO and Board Chair will attend meetings as required for items nominated by the Chair 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 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 discuss matters of mutual interest and progress key national reform in disability policy, including a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).</p> <p>The Council's work will cover the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the trial and implementation of the NDIS and consider lessons learned from the trial; • Make recommendations to COAG on the transition to NDIS full scheme; and • Ensure a broad range of reforms are implemented through the National Disability Agreement (NDA) and the National Disability Strategy (NDS) to support people with disability, their families and carers. <p>This Council's work program will include responsibilities under Commonwealth and State legislation, National Agreements, National Partnerships and any other governance arrangements.</p> <p>The Council will have responsibilities under the <i>National Disability Insurance Scheme</i> (NDIS) 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 the amendment of the Act; ○ Agreement of host jurisdictions on NDIS rules outlined in categories A and C section 209 of the Act; and ○ Views of host jurisdictions on NDIS rules outlined in category D, section 209 of the Act.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the Commonwealth Minister about such matters; • 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"> • <i>Intergovernmental Agreement for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Launch</i>; • National Disability Agreement (NDA); and • National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS). <p>The Council will also receive annual progress reports on the National Carer Strategy. The Council will work actively to ensure all mainstream and Indigenous-specific policy, program and service delivery improves outcomes for Indigenous people; performance information is in place to monitor the outcomes; and data gaps are addressed.</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>In pursuing its priority actions for the period January 2014 to June 2015, the Council will consider the impact of regulation on individuals, community organisations and business and identify opportunities to reduce or remove this burden, wherever possible.</p>
<p>Specific actions to progress Council responsibilities in the next 18 months</p>	<p>The Council's priority actions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide advice to COAG on policy issues relevant to the trials, transition and full scheme of the NDIS as required. 2. Consider, and provide advice to COAG where appropriate, all reports and recommendations from the NDIA Board including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Annual reports submitted by 31 October each year; and ii) 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 and submitted within a month of the end of the period to which the report relates. 3. The development of recommended strategies to COAG by 31 March 2014 on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Improving client transition to the NDIA; ii) Information sharing; iii) Capacity building; iv) A strong focus on client outcomes; and v) Fiscal sustainability of the scheme. 4. Consider a review of arrangements for continuity of support and portability scheduled for completion by 1 July 2014. 5. Consider a review of mainstream interfaces by 31 December 2014. 6. Consider the NDIS Evaluation interim report in July 2015. 7. Agree terms of reference for the review of the NDIS Act 2013 by 30 June 2015.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Agree terms of reference for the review of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the NDIS Launch by 30 June 2015. 9. Develop recommended strategies on the transitional agreement for a full scheme for COAG consideration by 31 December 2015. 10. Provide policy advice, as appropriate, to COAG with respect to the implementation of the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS). 11. Agree and provide to COAG biennial progress reports on the NDS, commencing in 2014 (the 2014 progress report is expected by 31 October 2014). 12. Agree the NDS second implementation plan, <i>Driving Action 2015-18</i>, by 31 July 2015 13. Participate in biennial Disability Ministers National Forums with people with disability, representative organisations and other stakeholders, commencing in 2014 (the first forum is to be held by 31 December 2014). 14. Monitor implementation and reporting under the National Disability Agreement.
<p>Review and reporting</p>	<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 as required on its progress.</p> <p>The Council is able to refer matters to COAG for its consideration, noting that these will be matters genuinely requiring First Ministers' attention (such as major decisions and intergovernmental agreements).</p> <p>The Council can also advise COAG on an exception basis, especially when its priorities are not progressing satisfactorily.</p>