



Better support for people with disability

2022-23 October Budget

What was announced in the 2022-23 October Budget?

The 2022-23 October Budget includes some immediate measures to better support people with disability, and to commence a reform process for the Disability Employment Service program. These measures contribute to delivering on *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031*, and lay out the pathway to ensure no Australian with disability is left behind, recognising the need for longer-term improvements for people with disability.

Resourcing for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

As part of the government's commitment *Investing in Front Line Delivery*, this Budget provides \$158.2 million over 4 years for the NDIA to increase public service staffing by the equivalent of 380 full time workers, most of whom will work in the frontline to improve service delivery for existing and future National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants.

An additional \$385 million in 2023-24 is provided to the NDIA to deliver the NDIS. Together with the increased staffing measure this boosts total funding for the NDIA in 2023-24 by around \$430 million. Further resourcing of the NDIA to administer the Scheme will be informed by the NDIS review when it reports in 2023.

The Budget also provides \$137.7 million over the forward estimates in funding across 12 agencies to establish the Fraud Fusion Taskforce to strengthen fraud detection and better safeguard the NDIS from serious organised crime and other fraudsters. The Taskforce will enable intelligence sharing, identification and response by the NDIA, NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, Services Australia and other program departments, law enforcement agencies and other regulators to fraud perpetrated by those seeking to exploit social supports. The Taskforce is expected to generate savings of \$302.9 million and to provide the basis for further refining approaches to preventing fraud, reducing non-compliance and errors.

This will be supported by \$12.4 million to trial an Independent Expert Review (IER) Program to help resolve the backlog of appeals currently before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). This funding includes \$6.6 million in additional advocacy and legal support for participants.

NDIS Review

\$18.1 million over the two years to 2023-24 will be provided to support an independent review of the design, operation and sustainability of the NDIS. The review will also consider how to ensure the NDIS market and workforce is responsive and capable of supporting the delivery of quality and safe NDIS services.

Disability advocacy

Disability advocacy supports people with disability by ensuring their rights are maintained, promoted and valued. The Disability Representative Organisations Program funds disability representative organisations to provide systemic advocacy by representing people with disability and providing advice to the Australian Government. This Budget provides an additional \$11.2 million over four years to increase the capacity of these organisations to address barriers to social and economic participation for people with disability, and ensure their voices and perspectives are reflected in Australian Government systems, policies and services.

In relation to individual advocacy, additional funding of \$21.2 million will be provided over 3 years to 2024-25 for the NDIS Appeals program to help organisations to support people with disability who seek a review of an NDIS decision. This is in addition to the funding of \$6.6 million to support the advocacy of appeals associated with the IER program.

Changing Places

For some people with high support needs who cannot use standard accessible toilets, their ability to fully participate in their community is limited by the lack of suitable facilities. This funding of \$28.8 million provides one third of the funding required to build a facility where practical and in consultation with state and territory and local governments, in each of approximately 400 Local Government Areas currently without one.

Increasing residential accommodation for people with disability

Funding of \$0.6 million will be provided to the Lions Ulladulla District Community Foundation to repurpose an existing cottage and construct a new, specialised two-storey facility which will offer additional respite and permanent accommodation for people with disability on the south coast of New South Wales.

National Autism Strategy

A National Autism Strategy will be developed, supporting a coordinated national approach between all levels of government and service areas. The development of the strategy will draw upon the learning from the recent Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31 consultation processes to ensure comprehensive engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

This Budget also extends funding for the Autism Cooperative Research Centre (Autism CRC) to continue its national research agenda and evidence-based practice platform. Funding will also be used to ensure the Autism CRC's expertise in autism research, coordination, collaboration and advice can support the development and implementation of the National Autism Strategy.

Funding of \$2 million will be provided to the AEIOU Foundation for Children with Autism in Townsville, Queensland to expand by undertaking capital work and engaging staff to support another 12 children in its Townsville centre, with capacity to offer services for an additional 40 children in surrounding remote locations. This will ensure children with autism in the area have access to early intervention programs to help their development and for parents to have expert support and ability to access childcare specific to their child's needs.

Future Arrangements for the Disability Employment Services

The Disability Employment Services will be extended for two years, with a focus on lifting the service delivery quality and performance of the program.

Further work will be undertaken on a potential new model for disability employment, based on consultation processes that concluded earlier in 2022.

As a first step towards a more contemporary disability services system, the Government will also shortly open consultation on modernising the *Disability Services Act 1986*, again seeking to put people with disability and their views at the centre of policy design.

Funding of \$19.4 million has been allocated to support this work.

Key Facts

- Commits an additional \$385.0 million in 2023-24 to ensure the NDIA is properly resourced to deliver the NDIS. Further resourcing of the NDIA to administer the Scheme will be informed by the NDIS review when it reports in 2023.
- An additional \$158.2 million will be allocated to increase the NDIA's staff by 380 full time equivalent workers.
- Allocated \$137.7 million over 4 years to establish a Fraud Fusion Taskforce to strengthen fraud detection and better safeguard the NDIS.
- An additional \$11.2 million over 4 years for Disability Representative Organisations to further existing support for systemic disability advocacy.
- An additional \$21.2 million over 3 years to 2024-25 for the NDIS Appeals program to help organisations to support people with disability who seek a review of an NDIS decision.
- Commits \$12.4 million to trial an IER to help resolve the backlog of appeals currently before the AAT, including \$6.6 million for advocacy and legal supports for participants.
- Improves disability access in the community with \$28.8 million to contribute one third of the funding required to build 'Changing Places' facilities in each of the approximately 400 Local Government Areas without one.
- \$5.3 million to develop a National Autism Strategy, to deliver a coordinated national approach between all levels of government and service areas.
- \$0.6 million to support Lions Ulladulla District Community Foundation to provide additional respite and permanent accommodation for people with disability on the south coast of NSW.

More information

For more information about this measure and other [Department of Social Services'](https://www.dss.gov.au) Budget measures, visit the Department of Social Services website ([dss.gov.au](https://www.dss.gov.au)).

For information about the 2022-23 October Budget, visit the [Australian Government budget](https://www.budget.gov.au) website ([budget.gov.au](https://www.budget.gov.au)).