

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

83. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the minister's statement during debate on the Disability Services Amendment Bill 2012 in October 2012, in which she stated —

The thing that most people tell me ... is that the biggest complaint ... is that we cannot fund people who are obviously in need of support because we are still funding only those people who meet the most critical needs within the available resources.

- (1) Did the minister advise the Premier that under the NDIS a number of people in this state will get less levels of support than they currently get today?
- (2) If so, what is the evidence that this is the case?
- (3) If not, will the minister undertake to present the facts to the Premier so that WA can join the NDIS and put an end to the situation in which we cannot fund disabled Western Australians who are obviously in need of support?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) The Premier and I have had many, many conversations and discussions about the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I have to tell the member that the Premier is doing a fantastic job in ensuring that the people of Western Australia not only manage to hold on to all the great advantages that already accrue to people with disability in Western Australia, but also do not miss out on any of the benefits that are coming to us and other states through the NDIS. The government has repeatedly indicated that we are committed to an NDIS that does not disadvantage people with disability in Western Australia. That is the most important thing to us.

All governments have agreed that the scheme should provide continuity of support to people with disability currently receiving services to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in the transition to the NDIS. However, there is a risk that the level of support could be eroded over time, and that is a very significant risk.

- (2) One of the difficulties in determining future levels of support under the NDIS for people throughout Australia is that there are a number of questions to be addressed in what is still an emerging system. Continuity of existing supports to people with disability is an issue that is still under discussion with the commonwealth government. The state government is committed to ensuring that the current levels of supports and services in this state will not be diminished.
- (3) The state government continues to negotiate with the commonwealth government to get the best approach for Western Australia that builds on the many positive features of disability services in this state. The state government is committed to safeguarding the aspects of our current system that have been developed over the past two decades, such as decentralised decision making, individualised funding, person-centred planning, local supports and a very capable and robust non-government sector.

The state government remains committed to participating in an NDIS that significantly increases funding to meet the needs of people with disability, but it is incredibly important that people not have an unrealistic expectation of what the NDIS can deliver for them.