# 2014 Budget

## Supporting people with disability and carers

It is essential that people with disability and carers are empowered to participate socially and economically, receive an adequate standard of living and are supported to manage resources and life transitions. The Australian Government is committed to providing programmes and services that are better integrated and improve the wellbeing and social and economic participation of people with disability and carers.

### **What was announced in the 2014 Budget?**

The Budget is part of the Australian Government’s Economic Action Strategy to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

The Australian Government is committed to the full, nationwide rollout and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), while accepting that it will be a complex and challenging venture to ensure it is sustainable. It will be critical to balance management of the immediate costs with the long-term sustainability of the scheme as it moves to full implementation.

New NDIS trials will begin in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory from 1 July 2014, which will assist more than around 14,000 people with permanent and significant disabilities over the trial period. People with disability in these sites will have greater control and choice over the supports they receive and a lifetime approach will be taken to providing supports.

The Government has revised a cut to the NDIS worth $44.9 million as a result of the incorrect application of the increased efficiency dividend to funded supports under the NDIS and Sector Development Fund. By correcting this error, this money will continue to go towards meeting the needs of people with disability.

### Young Carer Bursary Programme

Many young carers miss out on opportunities to further their education, due to the emotional and financial pressures they face in caring for a family member or friend. The new $3 million Young Carer Bursary Programme will help young carers continue their study and reduce the associated financial burden.

The programme will provide bursaries for young carers aged 25 years and under to help relieve financial pressure to undertake part-time employment, in addition to educational and caring responsibilities. The programme will provide each carer with financial support to meet educational and caring expenses including traveling costs, text books and unexpected costs that could otherwise exclude them from study.

The programme will provide an incentive for young carers to remain engaged in their education, leading to improved employment opportunities and long-term finances.

### Disability and Carers Industry Advisory Council

The Australian Government will establish a new Disability and Carers Industry Advisory Council to provide innovative advice on how to improve the lives of people with disability and carers.

It will bring together industry, the service sector, peak bodies, people with disability and carers to work closely with Government on policies affecting people with disability and ways to reduce red tape across the sector.

### **Key facts**

* The Australian Government will deliver the NDIS in full.
* From 1 July 2014, NDIS trial sites will be in place across all states and territories except Queensland. Queensland will join the NDIS   
  in 2016.
* New NDIS trials in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory will assist around 14,000 people with permanent and significant disability.
* More than 35,000 people with disability will be assisted through the NDIS trials.
* Once fully rolled out, the NDIS will assist around 460,000 Australians with a permanent and significant disability and cost around   
  $22 billion.
* The three-year Young Carer Bursary Programme will provide critical support to young carers so they can stay in education, starting in January 2015.
* The programme will support young carers aged 25 years and under who look after people with disability, people with physical or mental health issues or older people in need of care.
* The programme will provide around 150 bursaries valued up to $10,000 annually over three years.
* The new Disability and Carers Industry Advisory Council will provide innovative advice to Government on how to improve the lives of people with disability and carers.
* The Government will continue to work with states and territories to implement the broader National Disability Strategy 2010–2020, which provides a 10-year national policy framework for all levels of government to improve the lives of people with disability and carers.

### **More information**

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services’ Budget measures, go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)

For information about the 2014 Budget, go to [www.budget.gov.au](http://www.budget.gov.au)