



**Position Statement:**  
**The NDIS and People with Intellectual Disability  
who Live on Society's Fringe**

**The design of the National Disability Insurance Scheme needs to carefully consider the circumstances of all people with disability.**

It would be easy to overlook people who lack self advocacy skills, family advocates and existing links with the disability service system. This is the case for a large number of people with intellectual disability who:

- Come into contact with the criminal justice system
- Lead superficially independent but at risk lifestyles
- Are parents, or
- Also have a mental disorder.

Many people have multiple of these characteristics.

**People in these groups tend to live on society's fringe and often:**

- Have histories of abuse and neglect
- Lack informal networks of support
- Are socially isolated and distrustful of service agencies
- Have very high support needs in relation to key life activities like decision making, control of their behaviour, dealing with personal crises, healthy lifestyles, avoiding personal and financial exploitation, dealing with the criminal justice system and caring for children.

*Many people on society's fringe will need a funded package of support under the NDIS.*

**NSW CID calls upon the government authorities designing and implementing the NDIS to ensure equitable access to the NDIS by people with intellectual disability who live on society's fringe. This**

**requires that the NDIS includes:**

1. An active process of engagement with individuals on the fringe so as to gain their trust and understanding of the benefit of support services.
2. Individual assessment and planning systems that accommodate the complex and dynamic needs of people on the fringe.
3. Flexibility in the kinds of supports that can be funded to accommodate the disparate supports needed by people on the fringe.
4. A robust workforce development strategy.

## Endorsements

### **John Walsh AM**

Partner Price Waterhouse Coopers;  
Associate Commissioner on the  
Productivity Commission Inquiry into  
Disability Care & Support

### **Ian Harper**

Economist, Partner  
Deloitte Access Economics

### **Peter Abelson**

Economist, formerly Professor Macquarie  
University,  
Mayor Mosman Council

### **Richard Madden**

Professor of Health Statistics and Director,  
National Centre for Classification in Health  
Chair, House with No Steps

### **Martin Laverty**

Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Health  
Australia

### **Mike Sprange**

Fmr Partner Price Waterhouse Coopers;  
Chairperson, Intellectual Disability Rights  
Service

### **Fiona Stanley AC**

Founding Director, Telethon Institute for  
Child Health Research,  
Australian of the Year 2003

### **Patrick McGorry AO**

Psychiatrist  
Australian of the Year 2010

### **Sir Gustav Nossal AC**

Scientist  
Australian of the Year 2000

### **Brendan O'Reilly AM**

Former Director General, NSW  
Departments of Premier & Cabinet,  
& Ageing, Disability & Home Care

### **Richard Bruggemann**

Former CEO, Intellectual Disability  
Services Council, SA;  
Professorial Fellow in Disability Studies

### **Australian Council of Social Service**

### **Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability**

### **Children with Disability Australia**

### **Disability Advocacy Network Australia**

### **Endeavour Foundation**

### **First Peoples Disability Network**

### **Mission Australia**

### **Inclusion Australia**

### **National Ethnic Disability Alliance**

### **People with Disability Australia**

### **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists**

### **St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia**

### **Uniting Care Australia**

### **Women With Disabilities Australia**

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### **Robert Strike**

Formerly President, Self Advocacy Sydney  
& Chairperson, NSW CID;  
Lifelong Achievement Award, National  
Disability Awards 2009

### **Kevin Cocks AM**

Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Qld;  
Human Rights Medallist

### **Bob Debus AM**

Former Attorney General NSW &  
Minister for Home Affairs Australia

“Those on the fringe must never be left  
behind.”

### **Tim Fischer AC**

**Colleen Pearce**

Public Advocate Victoria

**John Brayley**

Public Advocate South Australia

**Graeme Smith**

Public Guardian NSW

**Kevin Martin**

Adult Guardian Queensland

**Jodie Cook**

Public Advocate Queensland

**Anita Phillips**

Public Advocate ACT

**Toby Hall**

CEO, Mission Australia

**David Richmond AO**

Formerly Coordinator General NSW,  
Director General of NSW Health & the  
Olympic Coordination Authority;  
Author of the 1983 Richmond Report

**Laurie Glanfield AM**

Former Director General, NSW  
Departments of Justice & Attorney  
General, Finance & Services.

**Richard Matthews AM**

Former Deputy Director General, NSW  
Health & CEO, Justice Health

**Ethel McAlpine PSM**

Former Deputy DG, Ageing, Disability and  
Home Care NSW

**Gwynnyth Llewellyn**

Director, Centre for Disability Research &  
Policy; former Dean Of Health Sciences,  
University Of Sydney

**Eileen Baldry**

Professor of Criminology;  
Deputy Dean of Arts and Social Sciences  
UNSW

**Errol Cocks**

Professor of Disability Research,  
Curtin University of Technology

**Jill Wilson AO**

Professor of Social Policy and Research  
University of Queensland

**Alan Cameron AO**

Deputy Chancellor, University of Sydney

**Jeanette Moss AM**

Parent advocate

**Jane Fraser AM**

Parent advocate

**Kevin Stone**

Parent advocate &  
President, Inclusion Australia

**Terry Carney**

Emeritus Professor of Law, University of  
Sydney; Past President, International  
Academy of Law and Mental Health

**Michael McDaniel**

Professor, University of Technology Sydney;  
former Dean of Indigenous Education,  
University of Western Sydney

**Eric Emerson**

Professor of Disability & Health Research,  
Lancaster University, UK;  
Professor of Disability Population Health,  
University of Sydney

**The Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC**

Former Chief Justice, Family Court of  
Australia; Chair, Children's Rights  
International

**The Hon Paul Stein AM QC**

Former President of the NSW Anti  
Discrimination Board; Chair of the NSW Law  
and Justice Foundation

**The Hon Bill Carter QC**

Former Supreme Court Justice Qld &  
Royal Commissioner

**Graeme Innes AM**

Chair, Attitude Foundation  
Former Disability Discrimination  
Commissioner

**Wayne Bennett OAM**

Rugby League coach

**Craig Wing**

Rugby league international &  
Patron, Down Syndrome NSW

**Chris Masters**

Journalist

**Stella Young**

Disability activist and journalist

**Craig Wallace**

President, PWDA

**Brian Wilder**

Former MD of McGraw-Hill Book Co Australasia Pty Ltd; former Director and Chief Executive of Melbourne University Press

**Rob Ferguson,**

Former Director, Colliers International Chairman, Muscular Dystrophy Foundation of Australia,

**Colin Gunn**

Former Vice President, Muscular Dystrophy Association NSW

**Phil Foreman AM**

Emeritus Professor of Education University of Newcastle

**Chris Cunneen**

Professor & Leader in Justice & Social Inclusion, James Cook University

**David Ballantine**

Former General Manager Corporate Strategy, Fujitsu Australia, former CIO House with No Steps

**Ian Landon-Smith**

Polar Medal. Former Member, former President, Chatswood Sheltered Industries Inc, former Trustee, Sydney Grammar School

**Sandra Allen**

Former Editor, Macmillans

**John Allen**

Former Deputy Crown Solicitor, Hong Kong

**Paul Harris**

Director, WWF Australia, ex Chairman Bundanon Trust and Member of the Australian Stock Exchange

**Mark Ierace SC**

Senior Public Defender NSW

**Robin Banks**

Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Tasmania

**John Le Breton**

CEO Greystanes Disability Services & former Director, Public Guardian NSW

**Nick Lennox**

Director, Queensland Centre for Intellectual & Developmental Disability; President, Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine

**Trevor Parmenter AM**

Emeritus Professor of Developmental Disability Studies & former President, International Association for the Study of Intellectual Disabilities

**Christine Bigby**

Research Leader Living with Disability, Deputy Chair, Academic Board La Trobe University

**Patricia O'Brien**

Professor of Disability Studies, University of Sydney & former Director, National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College, Dublin

**Bernadette McSherry**

Foundation Director Melbourne Social Equity Institute The University of Melbourne

**Leanne Dowse**

Chair in Intellectual Disability and Behaviour Support, UNSW

**Julian Trollor**

Chair in Intellectual Disability Mental Health, UNSW