



2013-14 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

The Hon. Mary Wooldridge MP

Minister for Disability Services and Reform
23 May 2013



Strategic overview

A new portfolio, Disability Services and Reform, acknowledging the importance of disability issues for this Government

Our strategic directions for disability include:

- NDIS
- Increasing access to flexible service options
- Victorian state disability plan 2013-2016
- Services Connect



Budget overview

\$224 million over four years

Investment focusing on:

- Delivering essential supports
- Ensuring services are sustainable
- SACS
- Closing Sandhurst
- Launching the NDIS in Barwon

Delivering essential supports

- \$107 million for 720 new ISPs for people with high support needs.
- Continue funding for the Transitions to Employment lapsing program to meet demand from 200 students with a disability currently in the school system and needing vocational support.
- \$4 million will provide approximately 1,440 more people access to aids and equipment.



“This is the biggest one-off increase in ISPs in Victoria for some time.”

- Mr O'Brien, National Disability Services Victoria



Sustainable services

More than \$62 million additional in this Budget to help meet the increasingly complex needs of people with disability living in Government-run supported accommodation.

Introduce a standard board and lodging fee for DHS-managed disability accommodation to provide consistency, fairness and transparency. Used to fund additional ISPs to people on the Disability Support Register.

More than \$26 million for a wage rise in 2013-14 for about 13,000 disability workers as a result of a Fair Work Australia decision (the SACS Award).

Closure of Sandhurst Residential Services at Bendigo

- \$7.9 million to build new accommodation
- Up to five new supported accommodation homes, located in residential neighbourhoods
- Giving residents the opportunity to live with more choice and independence in their community



“One of the most significant decisions in the disability sector in many years”

- Colleen Pearce, Public Advocate

Launching the NDIS

- Signed agreement with the Commonwealth for the full roll out of the NDIS on 4 May 2013.
- \$17 million to support the Victorian launch of the NDIS in the Barwon region on 1 July 2013, taking the Victorian Government's total three-year investment in the launch site to more than \$300 million.
- Full rollout of the NDIS starting July 2016 and complete by June 2019.



“This welcome news brings certainty to more than 100,000 Victorians, their families and carers who will benefit from the NDIS.”

- National Disability Services

What has been delivered: Disability services

Invested an additional \$366 million in disability services since coming into office.

- **More Individual Support Packages:** We are delivering over 1,500 additional Individual Support Packages for people with high support needs.
- **Addressing the demand for accommodation** by delivering 343 new accommodation and respite places for people with a disability.
- **More funding for Aids and Equipment** providing for an additional 4,800 people and top-up funding for around 400 children.
- **Planning for the future** by launching the NDIS in Barwon from 1 July, and rolling out the full scheme from 2016.
- **Innovating and refining service delivery** with Services Connect, our model for transforming human services to create a sustainable, integrated service delivery system.