

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Federal Budget announcement heralds huge concerns from people with disability for a fully funded, sustainable NDIS**

Last night's quiet release by the Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison to scrap the proposed Medicare levy for NDIS funding has people with disability angered and justifiably concerned as to the Australian Government's commitment to the scheme.

"The levy would have ensured longterm sustainable funding of the NDIS," stated Serena Ovens, CEO of the Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN). "Now, in line with the secondary announcement today that unexpected revenue will cover the coming financial year's NDIS funding requirements, we are left to the uncertainty of year on year budgets, and the hope of a stronger economy and ongoing surpluses to continue to provide adequate funds."

Along with other announcements this week, such as the awarding of the NDIS contact centres contract to Serco, an organisation known to have a poor record in caring for people, and no known expertise in providing services for people with disability, PDCN are left wondering about the Federal Government's commitment to ensuring people with disability are at the core of the decision making processes for the scheme.

"It is vital that the NDIS has sustainable, ongoing funding, so that people with disability can obtain the necessary supports they need to allow them to participate fully in society. This isn't a privilege, or something that can only occur when there's a budget surplus, it's our right" commented Chris Sparks, PDCN's President.

"We call on the Government to commit to securing longterm, sustainable funding for the NDIS, and ensuring the success of this significant reform," said Ms Ovens.

#### **For further information contact the Physical Disability Council of NSW**

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