

MEDIA RELEASE – THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018

NDIS INQUIRY REPORT – SCHEME BECOMING AN 'OASIS IN THE DESERT' FOR THOSE NOT FUNDED

Today's release of the final report into the Implementation of the NDIS in NSW has found that to date the scheme has not realised its potential for many individuals, and that the NSW Government needs to ensure it commits to support the 1.2 million people with disability whom are **ineligible for the NDIS**.

"With 23 recommendations, many calling on the government to more actively pursue NDIS related issues through its role on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council, it seems there's still a lot to be done to facilitate its effective implementation," states Serena Ovens, CEO of the Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN).

"PDCN is very pleased to see that many of the core disability supports that the NSW government are currently considering defunding have been recommended to remain within their jurisdiction and budget. In particular, ongoing funding of disability advocacy organisation such as ours, and investment in other services and supports particularly for those not eligible for the NDIS are key recommendations."

Ms Ovens went on to quote that "The Parliamentary inquiry committee acknowledged the significant contribution of advocacy organisations in the disability sector, noting the important work they do in supporting and advocating for anyone with a disability, their families and their carers, **regardless of whether they are eligible for the NDIS.**"

Additionally, the committee stated its belief that it is imperative that funding from the NSW Government continue after 2020 to ensure people with a disability can exercise their rights and be included members of the community, acknowledges the importance of the broader advocacy services and advice our organisations provide."

PDCN and its members call on the NSW government to make a public commitment to long term advocacy funding as an election priority today!

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