

Coffs Coast Regional Disability Committee

(Merged Mid North Coast Area Disability Committee and Local Disability Advisory Committee)

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Productivity Commission

I am writing on behalf of the Coffs Coast Regional Disability Committee (CCRDC) in response to the National Inquiry into Long Term Care and Support. Enclosed is a paper describing the role and functions of CCRDC which are currently under review.

CCRDC requested a consultation in Coffs Harbour to participate in the inquiry but this was not granted. However, at its last three meetings discussion has focussed on the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme.

CCRDC would make the following comments –

1. It strongly endorses the Summary of Recommendations made in the draft submission of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. (AFDO)
2. On the topics inviting comment by the Productivity Commission :-
 - a) the new scheme should be needs-based and not designed as a crisis or medical model. It should be seamless allowing continuity and transparency and provide support to people with a disability regardless of age and whether occurring at birth or acquired. It should allow for adjustments to accord with changing circumstances/living conditions.
 - b) It should be funded by a levy on all taxes. Consideration might be given to absorbing other forms of disability insurance (e.g. CTP; Motor Accident, Workers Compensation) into a single disability scheme.
 - c) It should provide physical and emotional support to carers and families throughout lifetime
 - d) An appropriate assessment tool will be necessary to determine eligibility. This should be devised and processed with the involvement of people with a disability. The focus of assessment should appropriately be in a measure of the ability of an individual to function normally.
 - e) It should provide the individual with the choice of self management of funding or service delivery – or a combination. This acknowledges that many disabled people would wish to self manage. It is appreciated too that some individuals are unable to negotiate on their own behalf.
 - f) Emphasis should be placed on ensuring the scheme is person-centred and not carer/service centred. It should be seen to be maintaining the independence and dignity of individuals.
 - g) Most importantly, in service delivery and workforce impacts any undue centralisation of the scheme should be avoided. Services should be easily understood, delivered

and case-managed locally. This may require the absorption of existing services and systems into a single scheme.

CCRDC would of course be pleased to be involved in further discussions on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

S.J. ROTH
Chairperson
Coffs Coast Regional Disability Committee