



John Ajaka

Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Multiculturalism

Ray Williams

Member for Castle Hill
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTDOWN TO A NEW ERA IN DISABILITY SERVICES

A new era for people with disability and their families in Castle Hill begins in just five months.

From 1 July 2016, people with disability and their families in Castle Hill will be able to access the supports they want and live the life they choose as they join the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Member for Castle Hill and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney Ray Williams said 2016 will be historic year for people with disability and their families.

“Make no mistake, the NDIS is a game-changer. For the first time, people with disability and their families will have real choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive,” Mr Williams said.

“Importantly, the NDIS will deliver many economic and social benefits to The Hills. New and existing providers will be looking to employ more staff to support people with disability, while more participants will be empowered to seek employment and access the community more.”

Minister for Disability Services John Ajaka said the NSW Government was committed to delivering the NDIS in NSW.

“The NDIS is one of Australia’s great social reforms. However, with any reform there is the potential for some early challenges. To help make the rollout as smooth as possible, I would encourage people to start getting ready now,” Mr Ajaka said.

“People with disability, their families and carers should start thinking now about their goals and aspirations as well as what supports they will need to achieve those goals.

“Everybody in the community can participate in this life-changing scheme. The NSW Government has made TAFE courses free for those who want to be one of the 25,000 additional staff we need in the disability sector.”

Mr Craig Moore, CEO of Castle Hill NDIS service provider, Interaction, stated ‘The NDIS provides more choice and more control to individuals by placing them in the driver’s seat of decision making. It strengthens their rights to choose how, when and what supports they need and want to live enriched independent lives in our community.’

With many people coming into the scheme in such a short period of time, there is a planned approach to how people will access the NDIS. The majority of people currently receiving specialist disability supports will be able to access the NDIS in the first six months of the scheme launching.

The NSW Government will build on the lessons learned from the overwhelming positive experiences of those in the Hunter trial site and from the early rollout of the NDIS for children and young people aged 0-17 in Penrith and the Blue Mountains.

From 1 July 2016, people living in South Western Sydney, Hunter New England, Southern NSW, Central Coast, Northern Sydney, Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains will be able to access the NDIS.

Information to support people and providers get ready for the rollout on 1 July 2016 is available at www.ndis.nsw.gov.au

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