

29 June 2007

Media Release

Coalition Government announces major funding for people with disability and their families

National Council on Intellectual Disability (NCID) welcomes the Prime Minister's intervention in the crisis facing many families living with disability. The \$1.8 billion Disability Assistance Package announced today will provide many families with the support that they desperately need.

The package includes assistance for families with young children and significant new funding for people with disability who live with ageing parents. The Disability Assistance Package is a mix of in-home support, respite support and accommodation support.

"This package provides a unique opportunity for the Australian Government to deliver support to people with disability in flexible and person-centred ways", said Mr Rob Allen, NCID President.

"For many years, support services for people with disability have been stuck in a 'model' framework; this Package, through the new Transition Support Workers based in Centrelink offices, provides an opportunity for the individual needs of people with disability to be addressed, as opposed to individuals having to fit a static model of service", Mr Allen said.

NCID encourages the States and Territories to follow the lead of the Australian Government and to commit substantial funding to address the unmet need in their communities. NCID also encourages the States and Territories to direct that funding to the individual needs of people with disability through individualised planning and funding in conjunction with the Australian Government; we do not want to return to having two separate systems for people with disability to negotiate.

Contact: Rob Allen, President 0412 283 510
Mark Pattison, Executive Director, 0407 406 647

The National Council on Intellectual Disability (NCID) was established over 30 years ago by parents and friends in an endeavour to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disability and to fill the need for national unity and information.

The Council is the recognised national peak body with the single focus on intellectual disability, ie, our actions and priorities centre on issues that affect the lives of people with intellectual disability and their families. Our mission is to work to make the Australian community one in which people with intellectual disability are involved and accepted as equal participating members.

NCID has over 5,000 members representing all 8 States and Territories. In addition to having people with intellectual disability on its Board, NCID receives policy advice from Our Voice. Our Voice is a committee the membership of which is exclusively people with intellectual disability representing all States and Territories.

www.ncid.org.au

PO Box 771 Mawson ACT 2607
Ph/fax: 02 6296 4400
rob.allen@ncid.org.au