

The Barwon Launch Site

The Impacts of NDIS on the Victorian Mental Health System



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VICSERV NDIS Project

Funded project through the State Dept. Health & Human Services–
Mental Health Branch.

- What are the issues being experienced in the Barwon trial site?
- What is the data telling us?
- What capacity does the NDIS have to meet the psychosocial needs of consumers?

VICSERV NDIS Project

Project Deliverables

- Series of Papers:
 - Key Issues , learnings and areas in need of change
 - Data analysis – trends and issues identified
 - Case studies – what services, models of care are consumers able to access
 - Systems impacts in the Barwon site

The Positives

- Many consumers report they are happy with the supports provided by NDIS Plans – in particular they are happy to be able to access group programs.
- Agency's data indicates that the number of clients as assessed as eligible for NDIS has increased over time .
 - Early agency data approx. 55-60% had approved plan
 - Feb 2015: 75- 80%
- Data suggests approx. 20% assessed as ineligible.

Key Issues

- Scheme design - Eligibility
 - Permanence (or likely) of “functional impairment”
- Impacts reported by consumers**
 - Language is “harmful and increases stigma”
 - Process is “demeaning”
- Impacts reported by service providers**
 - Large amount of support and advocacy needed to assist people (unbillable hours)
 - A number of people withdrawing due to stress of the process

Key Issues

- Clusters and Pricing
 - No mental health specific clusters
- Price
 - Mental health qualified workforce
 - Risk and quality
- Currently no options for mental health rehabilitation services
- Currently no options for family and carer support in NDIS

Unintended Impacts

- Consumers withdrawing because the scheme is experienced as demeaning and stressful – leaving them with no access to services.
- Increased feelings of stigma.
- Consumers with limited funded hours having no key support worker to ring when issues arise as their hour(s) for the week are expended.
- Some consumers may not have access to services

NDIS Scheme needs to be fit for purpose for mental health



Victoria – Testing the NDIS

The NDIS is in “trial” and changes regularly

What it is today - **will not be what it is** at full roll-out

NDIS is an insurance scheme designed to support people with significant and enduring disability

The Barwon trial site is showing NDIS can be a good “disability support” complement to a strong state mental health system

The Victorian Context

- Previous Victorian Government decision to contribute “in-kind” the PDRSS funds into Barwon NDIS trial
- New framework for mental health services across Victoria – except Barwon
- The key issue for the future of mental health in Victoria is - how will the state mental health system and the NDIS work together?

Emerging Gaps and Risks in Victoria

What will NDIS provide/what won't it provide?

- Won't meet all the needs of everyone
- There are no services for Families / Carers

High quality, contemporary mental health support is not clear – the state govt have not committed either way

Unmet need may result in increased demand in emergency departments and hospitals

Current NDIS Development

Reviews

- Access
- Optimal Supports
- Workforce

Policy Development

- Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)
<http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/1421> (due 15 March)
- Quality and Safeguarding Framework
<https://engage.dss.gov.au/ndis-qsf/> (due 30 April)