

Pave the Way Newsletter

April 2015

Participant Readiness Activities

It has been seven months since Pave the Way began delivering Participant Readiness activities to prepare people with disabilities and their families for the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland in July 2016. We have been incredibly buoyed by the positive feedback from many of the individuals and their families who have attended the workshops and hope that you will find future workshops just as useful.

During these seven months, more than 700 people have attended two of our events: the *Paving the Way to the NDIS* presentation and the *Documenting Personal Information* workshop. We are currently developing a workshop around planning for a good life, which we will begin to present in the three regions from May.

These workshops and presentations are being offered in the North Coast, North Queensland and Far North Queensland regions only. You can find the map of these regional boundaries [here](#). For information about Participant Readiness activities in other regions of Queensland click [here](#), or **feel free to contact us for this information if you do not have access to a computer.**

We continue to offer statewide *the Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future* presentations. You can find the dates and locations for all of Pave the Way's events on the back page of this newsletter.

We are also pleased to be able to offer you the option of registering for any of Pave the Way's events online. This will enable you to do this at your convenience rather than phoning during business hours. Just open the event you are interested in and it will prompt you to register.

Pave the Way's website, is regularly updated to include new resources and information about preparing for the NDIS and succession planning. These resources can be sent to you via email or mail when requested.

While the NDIS is still in trial in various parts of Australia and there is much that still needs to be ironed out, there have been positive reports about how well it is progressing and the difference it is making to many people's lives. If you have the time for a longish read follow this link for the NDIS Progress Report: Year One, July 2014.

http://www.ndis.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/ndia_progress_report_july_2014.pdf

Wishing you well as you continue to plan for now and the future.

You now have the option to register for workshops online. Simply go to the Pave the Way website and find event you wish to register for and click online registration

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NDIS: Burning questions

During the past seven months, Pave the Way has presented over 30 *Paving the Way to the National Disability Insurance Scheme* presentations. One of the more common burning questions at this presentation and from individual conversations is around the sustainability of the Scheme. *How can we know that the government will follow through with the NDIS and that it will be a viable and sustainable scheme?*

While there are no guarantees, it might be helpful to remember a couple of important points. Firstly, this Scheme is not just policy, it's legislation. The NDIS Act was passed in 2013 and provides the framework for how the Scheme will function throughout Australia. In other words, this is not just a good idea, it's the law.

Secondly, the Scheme is partly funded by a half-a-percent increase in the Medicare levy. Therefore, it's not just the contribution of the government of the day through the welfare budget, it's also the direct contribution that every working Australian makes through their Medicare levy. Just as Australians can access free healthcare through Medicare, they will be able to access reasonable and necessary support through the NDIS if they are eligible for the Scheme. It is anticipated that the levy will raise \$20.4 billion by 2018-19. This won't cover all the costs of the NDIS but will make a significant contribution to the viability of the Scheme.

Thirdly, the cost of the current system would eventually be more expensive than the introduction of the NDIS. PriceWaterhouseCoopers estimate that by 2025, the cost of doing nothing (in other words, keeping the current system) would exceed the cost of the NDIS. By 2035, the cost of disability services without reform would be about \$20 billion more in real terms, than the NDIS. (NDIA chairman Bruce Bonyhady as quoted in *The Weekend Australian*, 26 April 2014).

While funding is a significant benefit of the Scheme, it's important to remember that the Scheme is bigger than that. It also has a Tier One and Tier Two (also called Information, Linkage & Capacity Building) that generally won't involve direct support or funding. These tiers will build on work that will foster greater inclusion and opportunities for people with disabilities in their local community and contribute to the societal change that is necessary for these opportunities to be developed.

The NDIS is still in the trial phase in parts of Australia and much is being learnt during this stage about how the Scheme will operate in an effective and viable way. So if you're wondering whether it's worth the effort involved in planning (or reviewing) your vision for a good life, we think it's always worth the investment – regardless of what the NDIS may contribute to your situation.

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Legal Resources

Pave the Way offers legal resources to families because legal tools such as wills and trusts can be one part of a strategy for safeguarding vision-driven plans for the future.

Currently our legal resources include:

- *Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future* workshop and booklet;
- *Preparing to make a will*: an information sheet about what to do before visiting your solicitor";
- a list of solicitors whom we are happy to refer families to;
- our legal consultant who is able to provide legal information through individual telephone conversations with families.

As a result of our work providing legal information about succession planning, we have identified an opportunity to help families develop a better understanding of how wills and trusts relate to plans and how wills and trusts might actually reflect the contents of plans. Also, we thought that it would be useful for families to see what wills and trust deeds look like and how they work in reality.

Accordingly, we have developed a new full-day workshop, *Using the Law to Safeguard Plans*. This workshop demonstrates how a vision driven plan could be incorporated in will and trust documents and examines how the needs of different children within the family are balanced. It also seeks to demonstrate that some things cannot be safeguarded using legal tools and that ultimately people keep people safe.

Using the Law to Safeguard Plans is a practical workshop, where participants have many opportunities to work together to develop strategies for instructing a solicitor and identifying how to protect aspects of plans using wills and trusts.

When completed, the workshop workbook will provide participants with a take-home resource that contains an example will, trust deeds and other important information to help families to prepare to engage in their own legal planning.

The first of the *Using the Law to Safeguard Plans* workshop is being held in Newmarket on 2 May 2015. As this particular workshop is not funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services, it will cost \$45 per person or \$80 per couple to attend. Prior attendance at our *Planning for Now Tomorrow and the Future* workshop would be beneficial, but not essential. For further details or to register please contact Elaine Henderson on 3291 5888.

We hope to run more *Using the Law to Safeguard Plans* workshops this year. Future dates will be advertised through our Pave the Way website and in our newsletter.

This workshop demonstrates how a vision driven plan could be incorporated in will and trust documents and examines how the needs of different children within the family are balanced

Pave the Way

Pave the Way is funded by the Department of Communities' (Disability Service) to deliver Participant Readiness activities. This new aspect of Pave the Way's work will assist Queenslanders with disabilities, their families and carers in the North Coast, North Queensland and Far North Queensland regions to prepare for the roll out in July 2016 of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We will continue to assist families throughout Queensland to clarify their vision for their family member with a disability and to plan to implement that vision. We encourage planning which is vision driven, 'whole-of-life', developmental, outside-service planning and which safeguards family members in the long-term.

Contact Us

Please contact us if you would like to be on our mailing list, or would like information about planning for the future and preparing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Upcoming Events

Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

Townsville	18 May
Cairns	16 May
Caboolture	23 May
Mackay	27 June

Using the Law to Safeguard Plans

Newmarket	2 May
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Paving the Way to the NDIS

Cairns	May tbc
Townsville	May tbc
Charters Towers	May tbc
Hughenden	May tbc
Mt Isa	May tbc
Normanton	June tbc

Documenting Personal Information

Mareeba	29 April
Mossman	30 April
Cairn	2 May
North Lakes	2 May
Tully	May tbc
Innisfail	May tbc
Townsville	June tbc
Normanton	June tbc

Planning the Good Life

Innisfail	28 May
Cairns	June tbc
Atherton	June tbc
Mossman	June tbc
Cairns	June tbc
Townsville	June tbc