

# choice and control

in disability support organisations





Inclusion Melbourne is a community support organisation that has worked with people with an intellectual disability for more than 65 years.

Unlike other activity support day services, Inclusion Melbourne does not operate a centre and doesn't ask people to select activities from a list, follow a group schedule or stay in a centre. Instead, Inclusion Melbourne supports people to live a fulfilled life, to participate in community activities based on individual needs, wants and interests, and supports developing meaningful friendships within the local community. In other words, Inclusion Melbourne offers fully personalised support in the community.

Inclusion Melbourne's vision is to provide people with the opportunity to live in an inclusive community and to take their place in society as respected citizens.



Inclusion Designlab is Inclusion Melbourne's engine room for research, innovation, communications and policy.

Our vision is to bring together people with a disability, community organisations, and the world's leading disability researchers to develop cutting-edge models of practice, choice and citizenship that shatter glass ceilings and promote a more inclusive Australia.

We do this by developing, trialling, and implementing new systems of support and communicating our insights through a range of publications and media. We are also significant contributors to public policy and government inquiries.

The products and services created by Inclusion Designlab contribute to the continuous development of the disability sector through evidence based practice, accessible materials, and vital training for families and collegiate organisations.



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## meet the contributors



**dr jane tracy**

### **Director, Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria**

Dr Jane Tracy is a medical practitioner and senior lecturer at Monash University. With over 20 years of experience in the developmental disability field, she has contributed greatly to the education and professional development of health professionals, practitioners and students across Victoria. Dr Tracy is currently the Director of the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV). Dr Tracy and her colleagues have developed educational resources for the field, including CDDHV's inter-professional teaching and learning package Health and Disability: Partnerships in Action. Her commitment to the field and the significance of her study is prompted by her personal experience as the mother of an adult son with developmental disability.

The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria was, until recently, an academic unit within the School of Primary Health Care at Monash University before moving to its new host organisation, Monash Health. Established in 1998 by the Victorian State Government, it aims to improve the health of people with developmental disability and the services available to them. The Centre is also involved in various research programs and provides scholarships in the field of Developmental Disability Health.



**professor tim stainton**

### **Director, Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, University of British Columbia, Canada**

Professor Tim Stainton has dedicated his professional life to the area of disability, with an emphasis on intellectual disability. The Director of the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia until 2016, Stainton's Doctorate investigated the rights of people with developmental disability and individualised funding. Stainton's experience is evident, having taught in various institutions from LSE and McGill to the University of Wales Swansea where he was Director of Social Work. His expertise has also been demonstrated in his published works concerning individualised funding, disability rights, history, ethics and theory. Stainton is currently the Director of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship.

The Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship was established in 2009 to support people with intellectual disability and their families to be fully included as full and equal citizens locally, nationally and globally. The Centre is committed to maintaining a culture of lifelong learning to support growth, innovation and excellence for all members of society. The Centre seeks to contribute to this goal through learning, research and knowledge exchange. Through partnership with the UBC School of Social Work, the Centre offers students support through internships, research assistant positions, access to professional development opportunities and scholarships.

## the NDIS and your organisation

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is an insurance scheme that will offer all Australians with disability access to the funds and support required to live fulfilling lives as equal citizens and community members. The Scheme is managed by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and funded by the Federal and State governments. People who sign up to the NDIS are known as participants and commence their engagement by developing a support plan with the assistance of a planner. Unlike Australia's previous disability funding systems, in which an often insufficient amount of funding was distributed to support organisations, the NDIS will see funds go directly to participants in order to purchase reasonable and necessary supports.

The NDIS will therefore offer people with a disability increased choice and control via self-management of their support funding and the ability to shop around for the most suitable supports. The scheme will establish a new partnership and transactional relationship between people with a disability and disability support organisations. More than ever, disability support organisations will need to function as enterprises – businesses – that exist in a free market environment and accordingly will need to offer value for money and have firm boundaries around their core business and strategic planning. This is a significant challenge for the hundreds of small to medium sized charitable organisations that form the current support system.

The NDIS website is [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) and the My Access Checker for prospective participants can be found at <https://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist>



## consumers in a marketplace

The NDIS will enable participants to identify and procure supports that allow them to fulfill the goals agreed in their plan. However, participants will also be consumers in a marketplace, looking for competitive prices, value, and assurance that the support organisations they choose are person centred and of a high quality.

The first two volumes in this NDIS Readiness for Disability Support Organisations series have focussed on the internal composition of organisations. This volume introduces NDIS participants as consumers who will have the power to demand greater flexibility from support organisations.

While individualised funding schemes exist in countries like Canada 🇨🇦 and the United Kingdom 🇬🇧 and have been available in Australia for more than a decade, insurance models that provide funding according to need have existed for some time in countries like Germany 🇩🇪 and Sweden 🇸🇪 – though not on as large a scale as the NDIS. Australian transport accident and workcover schemes operate using an insurance model. The experiences of NDIS participants in the NDIS marketplace will be viewed with interest by policy experts and disability advocates around the world.

## the NDIS: what's happened so far?

### to 1 July 2016

Approximately 50,000 plans were approved across all states and territories, with many of these being reviewed several times. Satisfaction was between 90 and 95%.

### from 1 July 2016

Full rollout commenced across several large population areas across the country, providing NDIS coverage to millions of Australians.

