



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Amanda Bresnan MLA (Chair), John Hargreaves (Deputy Chair),
Alistair Coe MLA, Meredith Hunter MLA, Brendan Smyth MLA

**SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE ACT BUDGET 2012-2013,
TO BE PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 5 JUNE 2012**

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it completed to
committees@parliament.act.gov.au, by 9.30AM Tuesday 12 June 2011.

If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please feel free to
append your comments in an extra page. In any appended pages, please give your
comments after you state what question/s you are addressing.

1. Full name of group/organisation:

National Disability Services

**2. Name and honorific (Ms, Mr, Dr, etc.) of your organisation's/group's contact person
for this survey and their telephone number and email address:**

MS Deborah Sazdanoff

**3. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the Budget that it
would like to submit to the Committee?**

Yes (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed
Survey.)

No

**4. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT
Budget 2012-2013:**

a. National Disability Insurance Scheme

b. Indexation, ERO and reform project

c.

[continued over page]

5. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas?

Please refer to attached news update.

6. Are there any other particular issues with the Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention? If so, please append a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority.

Yes No

If yes, please comment:

Please refer to attached news update.

7. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?

Yes (go to question 8) No (go to question 9.)

8. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No

Comment (if you wish):

9. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on 15 June 2012, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee decides to invite you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 13 June 2012 to confirm arrangements for your appearance . Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations who indicate that they wish to appear.

Thank you.



ACT News Update

6 June 2012

ACT Budget 2012-13

NDS is pleased to see a focus on education and early intervention in the ACT Budget released yesterday. However a much larger investment is required to meet the accommodation and community participation needs of people with disability in the ACT and to build the capacity of the service sector in preparation for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The 2012-13 ACT Budget funds the following new initiatives for people with disability:

- Disability Support in Schools - which includes a \$2 million one off grant for non-government schools and \$3.2 million over 4 years for the Canberra Institute of Technology for year 12 students at risk, including students with disability.
- Disability and Transport - a \$4.5 million commitment over 4 years to upgrade bus stops to meet the Disability Standards, as well as \$1.5 million for the purchase of vehicles.
- \$495,000 over three years (\$100,000 in first year) to establish a community visitors scheme. This reverses the Government's earlier opposition to recommended changes to legislation to establish new categories of Official Visitors including an Official Visitor for People with Disabilities.
- Almost \$3 million over three years to construct homes specifically for people with disability. NDS supports the capital investment in the construction of 3 dual occupancy dwellings, however notes that with funding allocated over 3 years and not commencing until 2013-14 it won't immediately alleviate the urgent need for supported accommodation places in the ACT.
- \$1.041 million over two years to extend the Therapy Assistants in Schools program.

The focus on early intervention and prevention services is appropriate and NDS hopes that lessons from any review undertaken on this successful service type are incorporated into future service delivery.

A nominal funding indexation rate of 3.25% has been announced for 2012-13 for community service providers. However, a reduction of 0.34% per annum will be made to this rate as a contribution to funding the Equal Remuneration Order and

"Related Community Sector Reforms" over the next three years. This equates to \$1.4 million over three years. NDS is very concerned about the adverse effect of this reduction on direct service delivery for people with disability, their families and carers.

NDS would like to have seen a budgetary commitment to increase individual support packages and build sector capacity in preparation for the NDIS. While NDS applauds the Government's support for the Scheme, we urge the Government to begin work with NDS and other peak associations representing people with disability, families and carers to develop a plan for NDIS readiness in the ACT.

Contact Information:

Deb Sazdanoff, National Disability Services ACT, [REDACTED],
[REDACTED].

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