

- It's time to change the way services for people with disabilities are funded and structured in Australia.
- It's time to make services for people with disabilities and their families effective, equitable and efficient.
- Almost every Australian has cared, or is caring, for a family member with a disability, or knows of a family doing so. Many of these families fall through a huge gap in Australia's social services network.
- Those who acquire a disability through a workplace or a motor vehicle accident generally receive financial support. However, for those who acquire permanent disabilities in other accidents, are born with a permanent disability, acquire a permanent disability through a medical condition or have a permanent mental illness, there is no automatic support to meet their needs.
- This is a national disgrace and an issue for every Australian.
- It's time to introduce a new national safety net, ensuring peace of mind for all Australians should they or someone they love become severely disabled.
- In place of Australia's current crisis-driven, outmoded welfare-based approach to disability services, it's time for a modern, forward-thinking National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Governments are already spending billions of dollars on disability services. A national insurance approach with its inbuilt focus on lifetime needs and claims management would be much more effective and efficient, as well as fair.
- With the number of Australians with a severe physical, intellectual and/or behavioural disability increasing, and the community's capacity to provide informal care declining, it's time to start planning properly for the future, as Australia did in the 1980s when compulsory superannuation was introduced.
- It's time to cement a National Disability Insurance Scheme as a central plank of Australia's social and economic policy framework.

My personal message ...