

Response to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report

Introduction:

Activ has welcomed the draft report on Disability Care and Support by the Productivity Commission.

As has been acknowledged by many, the need for reform as outlined in the draft report is clear and transformational change is required, not incremental.

Activ has had the benefit of reviewing the draft submissions of NDS and Identity WA in response to the Commission's draft report. In the main we support the statements and views contained in those submissions.

Particular Comment:

We would like to make a particular comment on the Governance of the NDIS.

We are concerned at the creation of a new Federal Agency which on the face of it does away with current government (State and/or Federal) structure that may be in place.

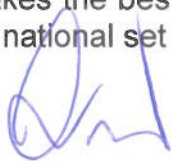
More consultation needs to occur on this aspect and appropriate working groups established within each State to ensure a sensible and workable infrastructure is in place.

Activ is of the view that fundamentally the structure in Western Australia of the Disability Services Commission (DSC) being accountable for disability is sound. It is important that one does not throw out the "baby with the bathwater" in replacing this system with the NDIA.

Similarly, the Commission should consider the Local Area Co-ordination system that is in place in WA, which in our view is very workable as a model, particularly if it were to receive additional resourcing.

Activ endorses that the Commission further considers the Federation Model of Governance similar to that referred to in the submission by Identity WA. Using and building on the infrastructure in place in this State would best serve the needs of people with disability and their families.

Our recommendation is that this matter be reviewed by the Commission for purposes of its final report, and allow a governance system which takes the best of what is working at State level and integrates that with a national set of standards for governance and service standards.



Tony Vis
Chief Executive Officer

28 April 2011