

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON



DISABILITY

Incorporated in the ACT

National Council on Intellectual Disability

Strategic Plan

Issues Identified as High Priority by NCID Agency Members:

2008 – 2011

(to be review November 2009)

July 2008

NCID Strategic Issues

2008 – 2011

Issues Identified as High Priority by NCID Agency Members:

With the election of a new Australian Government in November 2007 there is a unique opportunity for the Australian Community to forge a new positive relationship with people with disability and their families. The new Australian Government has commenced a number of initiatives that presents National Council on Intellectual Disability with the opportunity to shape Government policy to the benefit of people with intellectual disability and their families.

NCID's mission

To work to make the Australian Community one in which people with intellectual disability are involved and accepted as equal participating members.

NCID's Principles

1. All people are valued members of the Australian Community.
2. People with intellectual disability as equal participating members of the Australian Community have the same rights:
 - to participate in decisions which affect their lives
 - to pursue any grievance which affects their lives
 - to diversity of choice for housing, education, work, recreation and leisure
 - to equity and justice
 - to be empowered to take their full place in the Australian Community
 - to dignity and privacy in all aspects of their lives
3. All actions by the National Council, its Board, Members and staff are to assist people with intellectual disability to be equal participating members of the Australian Community.
4. The National Council will take action at the national level on the issues of key importance to people with an intellectual disability, their families and advocates.
5. The National Council will assist state organisations to achieve their goals that are consistent with the National Council Mission, Goals and Principles.

Key government initiatives

1. Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disability

2. Development of a National Disability Strategy
3. Appointment of a Disability Discrimination Commissioner
4. Review of the Disability Employment Support programme
5. CSTDA (4th) that has considerable new funding and benchmarks for States and Territories.

If positively framed and closely monitored these will have an enormous impact on the quality of life of people with intellectual disability. On the other hand if these initiatives are just 'window dressing' rhetoric to maintain the status quo or to provide a cover to decrease the support currently provided to people with intellectual disability then the impact will be highly negative.

The Opportunity for NCID is to engage with the Australian governments and the community to ensure the framing and the monitoring of the initiatives bring actual positive change.

The Challenge for NCID is to focus our capacities/resources to be active participants in the policy development to achieve our Mission.

Issue 1: Supported Living¹

Many people with intellectual disability are forced to live in inappropriate settings or with families beyond general community expectations.

Objectives:

1. Supported Living encompasses the support that people need to live their daily lives in the community.
2. The principle goal is to ensure that people with intellectual disability have the support they need to achieve their rights as citizens, in a manner which enhances their independence and control over their own lives.

Strategies:

1. To promote discussion on the many aspects of supported living.
2. To promote evidence based outcomes for people needing supported living funding.
3. To develop a position statement on self-directed support; that will include a set of Principles and implementation guidelines.
4. To support the development of In Control Australia; in particular to provide administrative support to In Control Australia.
5. To promote innovative housing models, including home ownership.
6. To promote flexible funding and support arrangements for supported living – including re-badging 'respite care'.
7. Promote to government agencies the need for and benefits of a co-ordinated, resourced and 'seamless' approach to aged care for people with disability.

Resources:

- NCID Agency Members
- NCID secretariat
- Information on www.ncid.org.au

Achievements:

¹ This issue includes, housing, respite care, support in accommodation facilities, individualised funding and self-directed support.

<p>Issue 2: <u>Unmet Need</u></p> <p>There are a significant number of people with intellectual disability who urgently need support, and assistance is only made available to individuals at the time of crisis.</p>	
<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of outstanding unmet demand through an immediate injection of funding to avert individual crises; 2. Ongoing commitment to meet reasonable annual cost increases, producing a financially capable sector; 3. Future growth funding based on population growth to prevent another unmet need crisis; and 4. Once over the 'hump' of historical unmet demand and population growth, capacity to address future need in a planned and proactive way. 	
<p>Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain Commonwealth and State acceptance of the Objectives. 2. Detailed strategies will be determined from time to time by Agency Members as the CSDTA situation changes. 3. To inform Federal and State/Territory parliamentarians and key community leaders on the importance of the 4th CSTDA being fully funded. 4. Support the National CSTDA Community Alliance. 5. Monitor the outcomes from the \$1.8 billion CSTDA initiative – in terms of \$ actually spent and number of people who receive either support for the first time or enhanced support. 	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency members • NCID Staff • Allies

Achievements:

Issue 3: Family Skill Development

Families need information and skill enhancement in order to make informed choices and effectively advocate for and support their family members in their decision making.

Objectives:

1. A framework of skill development be available to families across Australia.
2. There are recognised family leaders across Australia

Strategies:

1. Support the development of skill enhancement training packages/modules for families
2. Identify family leaders, with appropriate skills, across Australia.
3. Promote both family leaders and skills programmes across Australia.
4. Provide financial support for 2 family members to attend the II 2010 World Congress in Berlin.

Resources:

- Agency members
- Parent to Parent Qld
- Pathways to Leadership
- ncid.org.au

Issue 4: Leadership by people with intellectual disability

People with intellectual disability need information and skill enhancement in order to make informed choices and effectively advocate for themselves and others and to support others in their decision making.

Objectives:

1. A framework of skill development be available to people with intellectual disability across Australia.
2. Recognised leaders with intellectual disability across Australia

Strategies:

1. Support the development of skill enhancement training packages/modules for people with intellectual disability; in particular self advocacy.
2. Identify leaders with intellectual disability, with appropriate skills, across Australia.
3. Provide opportunities for leaders to influence policy development across Australia.
4. Use the Having a Say Conference to promote the active involvement of people with intellectual disability in policy making.
5. Provide financial support for 2 people with intellectual disability to attend the II 2010 World Congress in Berlin.

Resources:

- Agency members
- Our Voice
- NCID Staff

Achievements:

<p>Issue 5: Education Lack of quality education for children with intellectual disability</p>	
<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To inform parents about the best practice in education² 2. To evaluate best practice and its application across State and Territory jurisdictions 	
<p>Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Report Card: This would replicate the report card of 2001 - whereby parents evaluate how we as a state and nation are going in implementing inclusion in education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide an indication of progress • to discover what issues have been resolved, which ones remain, and whether there are new challenges • to conduct a review of each state policy by parents • to direct to NCID in deciding what issues require discussion with leaders 2. Interaction – to publish best practice and key issues on inclusive education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction continues to be at the forefront in publishing on inclusive education, • most recently with an issue on early intervention and autism; and the example of Esperance, WA - an association of parents trying to increase the capacity of local schools and community to include their children. • we will plan to continue this initiative by publishing at least one issue in each of the years of 09, 10, 11. <p>Current key issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • behaviour and its development in inclusive settings • the social element of inclusion - (i.e. friendship, bullying) and what does research say on this issue • curricula inclusion - how does one include all in what is being taught • assessment of need in inclusive settings - assessing the capacity to include as opposed to assessing "disability" • more local examples of inclusion by families and schools in partnership. 	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCID staff • State Agency Members <p>NOTE: As compulsory education is administered by state governments the strategic plan will include some linkage between NCID and state members so that we;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand what the local issues are when parents choose an inclusive pathway • and how we can work together to address next steps. <p>This collaboration will also be apparent for the activities of report card and Interaction.</p>

Achievements:

² this objective is linked to the notion that parents who are the first and foremost teachers of their children. Apart from being informed about the parent role as "decision maker" but also being informed about the role of parent as "teacher".

<p>Issue 6: <u>Employment (economic participation)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of opportunities for employment of and career paths for people with intellectual disabilities to participate economically and socially in the life of the Australian Community. 2. Over the last 10 years there has been a decrease in the number of people receiving Open Employment support. 	
<p>Objective:</p> <p>For school leavers to have access to a specialist "competent" open employment service; this profession is under threat and so is an important issue for NCID in the next 3 years</p>	
<p>Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote a National Technical Assistance model of collaboration between professionals and researchers and families - and that every labour market region should have quality service provider that is comparable to the practice and outcomes of benchmarks. 2. To inform parents of open employment as a evidence based choice - via the notion of report cards and outcome based statements 3. Publish Interaction issues - 2009's dedicated issue; 'promoting best practice' 4. An annual 1-2 day conference on inclusive employment 5. Review of school to work literature and programs in Australia 	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCID staff • Agency members • NCID Employment Forum
<p>Goals:</p> <p>A national strategy of employment assistance consistent with the research evidence would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An eligibility and access pathway to open employment assistance based on a presumption of employability in open employment. • An equal opportunity for <u>all</u> school leavers with intellectual disability to try open employment assistance as a first choice. • The availability of a competent specialist open employment assistance provider for jobseekers with intellectual disability in every labour market region. <p>To deliver this national strategy we recommend that the Commonwealth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a sub-branch within DEEWR charged with the goal of increasing the open workforce participation of jobseekers who require on the job training and long term 	

support.

2. Ensure that every school leaver with intellectual disability who chooses open employment is eligible to receive assistance without limitation.
3. Empower and inform families and jobseekers with the data outcomes of contracted services by publishing the performance outcomes as “report cards”, together with annual national performance data summaries.
4. Establish a national training and technical assistance strategy to assist disability employment staff with implementing evidence-based strategies in achieving inclusive employment outcomes.
5. Develop a national interface with secondary education from about the age of 14, which provides students with the opportunity for paid work and authentic skill preparation before they leave school.
6. Minimise the fear of families and jobseekers about the disability support pension eligibility by encouraging the choice of work without loss of pension eligibility.
7. The Strategic plan should recognise the NCID Inclusive Employment Forum. This expresses a coalition of parents and professionals who are committed to supporting a pathway of real employment for people with intellectual disability.

Achievements:

Issue 7: Human Rights, including Bill of Rights

There is inadequate constitutional and legal frameworks in Australia for the establishment and protection of rights of people with intellectual disability

Objectives:

1. Review of DDA strengthens the DDA in promoting the rights of people with intellectual disability
2. The (proposed) UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability promotes and enhances the rights of people with intellectual disability in Australia.)

Strategies:

1. Participate in DDA Review consultations
2. Prepare a major report to the DDA Review
3. Monitor the development of the UN Convention and as appropriate prepare submissions.
4. provide information on the DDA review and UN Convention to NCID's constituency.

Resources:

- NCID staff
- Advocacy Organisations
- ncid.org.au

Achievements: