

NDIS Code of Conduct

CPSU SPSF NSW Branch Submission

This submission has been prepared by the Public Service Association of NSW a division of the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU), the primary union covering public sector workers in the Commonwealth, State, and Territory governments. Our members work in state government disability services departments in roles directly working with and supporting clients (eg social trainers, disability support workers, local area coordinators, community support teams, etc), and policy, planning, management and administrative roles. The CPSU supports the principles of NDIS, but we do not support NDIS being used by governments for privatisation and the erosion of employment security, pay and conditions which has the potential to decrease quality care for people with disability.

Enforcing the Code of Conduct and Quality

The privatisation of state government disability services has led to concerns that there will be no safety net provider to ensure no person with a disability is left without the specialist disability supports they need. Private and Non-Government providers have raised concerns that they will not be able to provide services at the prices being offered under the NDIS (67%) and that they will have to reduce the *quality of services* in order to deliver at the current prices (46%).¹

While the CPSU welcomes the development of the *NDIS Code of Conduct* and supports the creation of the *NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission* to ensure providers meet the standards in the *Code of Conduct*, it is paramount that sufficient resources are provided to appropriately administer and enforce it. We believe that the NSW Government Agency Family and Community Services has the required skills and resources within their organisation to ensure quality at the state level. It is paramount that the NSW Government remains responsible for ensuring the quality of services in NSW.

The State Government Sell-Off

The privatisation of state disability services, implemented under the guise of NDIS, will lead to the erosion of some of the world's best-practice disability models, the loss of staff and the expertise they bring to the sector, and will severely impact many individuals and their families who rely on government-run disability services. We believe, at the very least, that NSW Government must retain oversight of the quality of disability care.

Recommendations:

- That minimum qualification requirements and training for disability workers be developed
- That the Commonwealth and state governments put in place regulations to safeguard pay and conditions for workers who transfer to the private sector
- That implementation, administration and enforcement of the NDIS Code of Conduct be undertaken by the NSW Government and its agencies.

¹ NDS, p. 20.