



**ACT Down Syndrome Association**  
Building 1, Pearce Community Centre, Pearce ACT, 2607

**Advocacy for Inclusion**  
2.02 Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St Canberra City, 2601

**Mental Health Community Coalition**  
Level 1, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City, 2601

**Women with Disabilities ACT**  
Building 1, Pearce Community Centre, Pearce ACT, 2607

## Shared statement: Foundational Supports and the NDIS

27 March 2024

Last years NDIS Review report recommended the development of a system of foundational supports to be developed between the Australian Government and the states and delivered outside the NDIS.

It was recommended that the National Cabinet should agree to jointly design, fund and commission an expanded and coherent set of foundational disability supports outside individualised NDIS budgets. Further that the Department of Social Services, with state and territory governments, should develop and implement a Foundational Supports Strategy.

Areas highlighted within the review included information, navigation support, systemic advocacy and jointly investing in state and territory programs to provide additional support to people with disability outside the NDIS.

These included programs in the areas of home and community care support, a nationally consistent approach for the delivery of aids and equipment outside the NDIS, psychosocial supports outside the NDIS to assist people with severe and persistent mental ill-health currently unable to access supports and early supports for children with emerging development concerns and disability. People should not be excluded because they do not fit within a narrow diagnostic disability box.

As Governments approach the development of these foundational supports ACT advocacy groups set out our expectations in the scope, design and implementation of the planned new systems of foundational supports.

Vastly improved information and referral services, managed by people with disability and with continuity of funding should be a feature of the new system.

These need to be genuinely foundational based on a bedrock of secure funding and policy commitment so we don't slide back to the old capped and rationed system characterised by dysfunctional funding relationships between levels of government and a lottery dependent on your disability diagnosis.

We do not support crude carveouts of entire support systems and populations, like young children, people with autism or people with psychosocial disability, from the NDIS.

Foundational supports must add to the support ecosystem and address known gaps, not reduce the quantity, variety and quality of supports.

Governments should not remove or restrict supports while the foundational support system is being built. This includes the CASP to CATS transition in the ACT.

Foundational supports should not be capped and rationed. They must be bedrock, consistent and entitlement based.

The key philosophical underpinnings of the NDIS including choice, control and a person centred approach should be retained and mirrored within the foundational support design.

The foundational support ecosystem should be built in a way that encourages the emergence of quality community managed providers with a genuine footprint in the ACT.

We need to learn from the NDIS implementation and avoid gaps in any transitions of support types so good services are not lost.

This is a major redesign task which will require genuine and resourced co-design including funding people with disabilities and their organisations to properly engage.

Clear success measures and expectations should be agreed with Disabled Peoples Organisations at the outset and disseminated publicly.

Issued by:

Advocacy for Inclusion

Women with Disabilities ACT

ACT Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability

Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT

