

STATE ELECTION 2021	
TITLE	Autism in Tasmania Let's Build on the Achievements
DATE	7 April 2020
TALKING POINTS	<p>#1. Sorry but... the NDIS failed promises now make disability a State Government issue – again!</p> <p>The raft of NDIS legislative and policy changes are designed to disproportionally impact Tasmanians with Autism.</p> <p>The recent flawed and rushed implementation of one of these changes - <i>Independent Assessments</i> – provide evidence for significant community concern. It is, however, only the start. These new reviews are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIA: Supported Decision Making. Paper is not public, expecting it to be released in April. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looks at circumstances in which a participant delegates decision making to another person. • NDIA: Reasonable and necessary supports for autistic participants. Paper yet to be released, possibly published as early as next week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will aim to implement stricter limits on funding levels for autistic participants, and guide NDIA/delegate decision making on what is deemed 'reasonable and necessary' for early intervention supports. • NDIA: Developmental Delay definitions. Paper yet to be released. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will aim to guide how NDIS Act is used to interpret developmental delay in young children. • NDIA: Homes and living review. Paper yet to be published. <p>The NDIS promise to deliver choice and control is being eroded. So too is the NDIS promise of an equitable <u>nationally</u> funded consistently accessible scheme.</p> <p>There are four major intended consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand for Tasmanian government spend on services such as TAD assessment, workforce development, individual advocacy, mainstream and disability services gaps, and crisis responses is growing. For instance: 12 month waiting lists for assessment. - Capabilities in Systemic advocacy and the expert synthesising of consensus views on impacts and solution generation are disappearing. For instance: Autism Tasmania has to rely on member funding for advocacy. - Supply across all disciplines within the Allied Health Workforce markets has totally failed across Tasmania. Public assessment services cannot compete with private services. For instance: 12 month waiting lists for assessment. - National information initiatives are being implemented across Tasmania promising 'national consistency' but fail to build on existing local capabilities and investment and critically are misleading Tasmanians. For instance: Autism Connect.

Autism Tasmania

We improve the lives of adults and children on the autism spectrum, their families, and carers; and community awareness, acceptance, and understanding of autism. www.autismtas.org.au

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	<p>In 2021, the new National Disability Strategy is poised to be released and will trigger the refresh to the Tasmanian Accessible Island strategy and inform the finalisation of the new Disability Act.</p> <p>In 2021, the Senate Committee on Autism will report its finding.</p> <p>#2 It's time for the Autism community in Tasmania to come together to unify its voice and ensure the Tasmanian voice is clear and heard.</p>
CALL FOR ACTION	<p>The State Government must commit to act:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconvene or support Autism Tasmania to convene the Tasmanian Autism Advisory Panel to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review the impact of the range of proposed changes to the NDIS, National Disability Strategy, Senate Committee recommendations, etc on Tasmanians with Autism. b. Recommend solutions to the Tasmanian Government to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Make representation to the various Federal Government fora. 2. Invest in recruitment of Allied Health practitioners to reduce the assessment waiting lists immediately. 3. Ensure the Tasmanian Accessible Island strategy invests in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Training for all front-line government employee officers to receive training in Autism Acceptance. b. New HR recruitment procedures that modify the measure for communication skills in a way that enables neurodiverse people to satisfy selection criteria. c. Mandates standards for autism-sensitive events and public spaces.
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Australian Autism Alliance position paper - Advocating for new NDIS Independent Assessments to be halted! - Autism Tasmania

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