LANDMARK PILOT NDIS AGREEMENT STRUCK

April 19th, 2013

The Northern Territory Government has struck an historic agreement with the Commonwealth for the Barkly Region to be a trial site for the National Disability Insurance Scheme from July 2014.

Chief Minister Adam Giles and Prime Minister Julia Gillard reached the break-through in-principle agreement at today’s COAG meeting in Canberra.

“This is great news for people with disabilities and their carers in the Northern Territory,” Mr Giles said.

“Today’s decision puts the Territory one-step closer to a full roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and provides opportunity to assess the NDIS in remote and regional areas.

“The Barkly was chosen to be a pilot site because of its mix of remote, regional and urban communities, meaning we will get a full understanding of how to implement the NDIS across the Northern Territory.

“Approximately 100 people with a disability and their families will participate in the three year trial.

“These people will have their needs assessed and will receive individual care and support packages under the DisabilityCare Australia model.

“Under the terms of the arrangement struck for the trial, the Northern Territory Government will contribute $21,000 for each person and the Commonwealth will meet the remaining costs.

“The Territory Government is committed to working with the Commonwealth to assist people with a disability get the most out of their lives and to provide maximum support for their carers.”

Health Minister Robyn Lambley praised the Chief Minister for securing this important deal that means the Territory will be front and centre in the development of the full NDIS model.

“The Department of Health currently provides $121 million to Territorians with a disability, the frail aged and their carers,” Mrs Lambley.

“The support this important sector of our community receives will increase significantly in line with the full implementation of the NDIS.

“The Giles Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth and the disability sector in the development of the full NDIS model to ensure Territorians with a disability and their families receive the best possible support now and into the future.”

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