Robyn Lambley
Minister for Disability Services

**NDIS update for NT disability service providers**

25 September 2014

The Minister for Disability Services Robyn Lambley has today opened a national briefing for Darwin disability service providers on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

“The National Disability Services team, led by Chief Executive Dr Ken Baker, is undertaking information sessions across Australia on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and today has visited Darwin to give local providers a much needed update,” Mrs Lambley said.

“The purpose of the “NDIS Essential Briefing” is to provide a wide range of information on matters relating to the NDIS, including a strategic look at the direction of the scheme and the implications for service providers.

“It is also a chance to provide an update on the NDIS trial sites around Australia, including workforce issues.

“The NDIS trial in the Barkly began on July 1 this year, and the trial is being run by the Commonwealth National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) with assistance from the NT Office of Disability.

“Early reports show that the remoteness of the Barkly trial site is already providing invaluable evidence to evaluate how the NDIS works in the bush and in a multi-cultural context.

“Over the past three months, the NDIA has been thoroughly assessing some of the 103 residents in the Barkly with significant and profound disability.

“The NDIA says the development of individual plans for Barkly residents is a significant task that cannot be rushed, to ensure that the appropriate level of support is considered.

“The NDIA and the NT Office of Disability are also working to ensure that the special needs and considerations of the Territory’s service providers are being taken into account.

“The NDIS trial is providing significant lessons for service providers and it is expected that the trial could demonstrate a need for a more flexible approach for Territory Non-Government Organisations, due to the challenges in delivering remote services to Indigenous communities.”

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