



Disability SA

The role of the Disability SA is to lead disability policy development and planning in South Australia; provide a single port of call for people with disability that provides clear and easy access from intake through to service delivery; and arrange for funding to go to all service providers by the most effective and transparent means.

Business units within Disability SA:

- Policy and Planning
- Intake and Assessment
- Funds Management
- Adult Services Coordination
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Reform

Policy and Planning

The role of Policy and Planning is to lead disability and carers policy development and planning in South Australia and influence the way other government departments include people with disability and their carers in government policy, programs and services. This unit is concerned with inter-government relations, the role of other State Government Departments, local government and the wider community in including and making provision for people who have a disability or a caring responsibility.

The objectives of Policy and Planning are to:

- Give visibility to disability and carer issues and ensure they are included in the development and implementation of South Australian Government policy and services
- Develop strategic policies and frameworks to guide programs and services for people with disabilities and their carers
- Provide high level, strategic, timely, evidence-based policy advice to government about issues relevant to people with disability and their carers
- Negotiate best outcomes for South Australia with disability and their families and carers and the South Australian Government at a national level
- Provide and implement strategies to give effect to national and state reform agendas
- Monitor and advise government on the impact of government policies and services on people with disability and their carers.
- Influence across-government policies and programs to achieve greater inclusion of people with disability and their carers
- Ensure the obligations of the *Carers Recognition Act 2005* are met
- Ensure that people with disability, carers, service providers, and organisations representing the interests of people with disability or carers are engaged in major national and state reforms.



In delivering these objectives, Policy and Planning undertake the following functions:

- Ministerial Support – Providing advice to government on policy matters and executive support for key parliamentary and budget processes
- Strategic Policy Development – National, state-wide or sector-wide direction and priority setting
- Inter-Government Relations – Relationships between other levels of government (Commonwealth Government, State/Territory Governments and Local Government) on policy issues
- Intra-Government Relations – Relationships between other departments within the State Government on national and state policy priorities
- Stakeholder Relations – Consultation at a State-wide level on policy issues with people with disability, carers, service providers, and organisations representing the interests of people with disability or carers
- System Reform and Service Development – Reviewing the existing service system to implement national or state reforms.

Intake and Assessment

The role of Intake, Assessment and Resource Allocation is to provide a single port of call for older people, people with disability and their carers that provides clear and easy access from intake through to service delivery.

The objectives of Intake, Assessment and Resource Allocation are to:

- Minimise duplication of assessments by implementing a tiered approach with each subsequent assessment building on information provided previously (“tell my story once”)
- Streamline the number of service providers that people need to contact, by referring people to the service provider that best meets their needs
- Provide equity and fairness to services for all people, through the use of standardised intake, assessment and resource allocation tools.
- Provide responsiveness, ease of access for people to achieve timely outcomes for service provision, and create capacity for new people to access the system
- Build on client’s strengths, and ensure a person-centred approach through all levels of service response
- Provide transparency in decision making that is fair and efficient, based on needs assessment and consistent benchmarks
- Create throughput, providing necessary processes for a more effective system of demand management
- Provide equitable and rigorous waitlist management and vacancy monitoring processes.



In delivering these objectives, Intake, Assessment, Referral and Resource Allocation undertake the following functions:

- Initial Needs Identification – A broad, initial assessment that determines eligibility, urgency, potential for time-limited early intervention, and what type and level of services people may need. Information or brief assistance on services available to people in their local area and the eligibility requirements of these services can also be provided
- Focused Eligibility Assessment – A variety of specialised or clinical tools are used in a more comprehensive eligibility assessment for specialist disability services
- Referral to Disability or Carer Service Provider – Following the initial needs identification or focused eligibility assessment process, an individual or carer is referred to an appropriate government or non-government service provider.

Funds Management

The role of Funds Management is to arrange for funding to go to all service providers by the most effective and transparent means. The term 'service provider' applies to both government and non-government organisations that deliver disability and/or carer services including Disability and Domiciliary Care Services.

The objectives of Funds Management are to:

- Provide funds directly to the service provider actually delivering the service, where appropriate
- Provide funds directly to people self-managing, or their agents, where appropriate
- Support choice of service provider for clients, wherever possible
- Provide funding on the basis of service providers meeting agreed standards and terms of service agreements
- Calculate funding on the most efficient price, which will be determined by a range of factors including industry cost, quality, ability to deliver and take into account regional and specialist services
- Reconcile funds provided to the actual services delivered.

In delivering these objectives, Funds Management will undertake the following functions:

- Funding – Funds Management negotiate on value for money and purchase services for an efficient price based on service quality with best outcomes for clients
- Relationship with service providers – Funds Management is the central contact and liaison point for service providers. This includes establishing and maintaining strong relationships with service providers, providing advice to service providers on interpretation of funding guidelines and policies on request, and negotiating service agreements and memoranda of administrative agreement, including variations
- Performance Management – Manage the performance of contracted service providers, monitor service quality standards and collect Key Performance Indicators and Minimum Data Set data from contracted service providers.



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Reform

South Australia has agreed to host a launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for children 0 to 14 years. This necessitates a dedicated focus in Disability SA on both national NDIS policies and the roll-out of the NDIS children's launch.

The Objectives of National Disability Insurance Scheme Reform are to:

- Develop the broader design for the full scheme roll-out
- Implement the launch of the National Disability Scheme for children aged under 14.

Key Jobs are:

Research officers
Contract managers
Policy officers
Project officers
Administrative officers
Project managers
Allied health professionals

David Caudrey
Executive Director
Disability SA