



Hon Jay Weatherill MP  
Premier of South Australia

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## **An open letter to South Australian's with a disability, their carers and families**

South Australians have been calling for a change in the way people with disability are supported and today we write to acknowledge your role in bringing about one of the most significant reforms to disability support in our generation.

The South Australian Government has agreed to implement the full National Disability Insurance Scheme, or *DisabilityCare Australia*, from 2016.

This will benefit more than 33,000 South Australians with disability when it is fully rolled out by mid 2018.

At last, we are truly empowering people with disability, along with their families and carers, to make decisions about the support they need to live dignified and fulfilling lives.

This fundamental shift in the way we support people with disability will be backed with a substantial increase in funding.

We've already almost trebled funding for disability services in South Australia – from \$123 million in 2002 to \$345 million in 2012-13. Upon full implementation of *DisabilityCare Australia* in 2018, this will have risen to \$723 million. With Federal funding, the total investment in *DisabilityCare Australia* will surpass \$1.4 billion per year by 2018.

This funding will help provide more support, such as therapy, respite, equipment and supported accommodation, in a way that works best for the person and their family.

This historic agreement will change the lives of people with disability for the better and sends a strong message to the community that Every Australian Counts.

To find out more visit [www.sa.gov.au/disability](http://www.sa.gov.au/disability).

We look forward to working with you to make these changes a reality for South Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay Weatherill'.

Jay Weatherill  
PREMIER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Piccolo'.

Tony Piccolo  
MINISTER FOR DISABILITIES

22 / 4 / 2013