



The NDIS reboot - what does it mean for people with an intellectual disability?

Brooke and Luke are policy officers at Inclusion Australia. They are also NDIS participants with an intellectual disability.

We asked them about Bill Shorten's big speech on the NDIS, and what it might mean for people with an intellectual disability.

What did you think about the speech?

- **Luke:** it was good that he said that the scheme is here to stay. As a participant, I feel like I want to give him a chance and see how it goes. The main thing that stuck out for me was about getting experience of people with disabilities in the NDIA.
- **Brooke:** It was good he talked about rights. I understood what he was saying about the NDIS is too rigid and not flexible and needs a reboot. I really liked it when he mentioned people with Down syndrome. I felt acknowledged.

What did you think about the six priorities for the NDIS? Which priorities were the most important to you?

- **Luke:** I think the six elements were all good.
- **Brooke:** It was good that he said that every dollar counts for people with disability. Targeting the misuse in the funds and making sure it is ongoing.
- **Luke:** Making sure that providers don't overcharge, and that the participant comes first and is the most important. Also investigating rogue providers and weeding them out.
- **Brooke:** For me it was also about the review of Supported Independent Living and making people in the community get the right support to independent living and letting people choose if they want to be there.

Do you feel worried about the future of the NDIS after listening to the speech?

- **Brooke:** I feel ok about the way Minister Shorten spoke about the NDIS and the way it needs to change. There isn't anything worrying me about the way he spoke about things for the NDIS to improve and be better in the future for people with an intellectual disability.
- **Luke:** I feel reassured that the NDIS will change but not disappear. I was worried listening to the news that it would be much worse with cuts to funding or eligibility.

What could he do to be more accessible for people with an intellectual disability

- **Brooke:** I thought Bill Shorten spoke very academically and very fast. If there was anyone else with a disability or an intellectual disability it might be hard as there were a lot of difficult wording.
- **Luke:** There were lots of big words and not very plain language - for example 'warehousing'. Just say 'getting people out of hospitals'
- **Brooke:** It would be good to slow down and maybe have the words up [on screen] about what he is saying. Also asking people to break down the questions and make it easier for the person with the disability, [using] terms where we can understand too.

Do you have any final words for Minister Shorten?

- **Luke:** There is still a lot of work to do but it feels like we will be on the right track, and we will get there.
- **Brooke:** I would say it's good you are improving the system. But you should come and talk to people with intellectual disabilities too. We have lots to say and lots of ideas too!