

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



24 June 2016

Mr John Della Bosca
Every Australian Counts
Via email: info@everyaustraliancounts.com.au

Dear Mr Della Bosca,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS

The Coalition Government is fully committed to implementing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This is a long-term commitment for people who need lifelong support, their families and carers. The Coalition is fully committed to properly, adequately and sustainably funding the NDIS, without paying for it through more deficit borrowings or increased taxes.

The transition to full scheme is an extremely complex venture, with the roll-out of the scheme from the current 22,000 people in trial sites as at 31 December 2015 to about 460,000 people in 2019-20.

It is critical to watch and control the transition to full scheme with great attention to ensure that it develops sustainably, on time and on budget.

What the Coalition has achieved

The Coalition has successfully managed the roll-out of the NDIS, to ensure that it is being delivered on time and on budget.

The Turnbull Coalition Government has now reached agreements for the full roll-out of the NDIS with seven States and Territories - New South Wales (NSW), Victoria, Queensland, South Australia (SA), Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

Together these agreements provide certainty for around 90 per cent of the 460,000 Australians expected to be eligible for the NDIS.

In Western Australia (WA), we have agreed to extend the NDIA and WA NDIS trials for an additional year, and expand them into new locations. This will give certainty to nearly 11,000 current and future participants of the WA trials that they can expect ongoing support.

The Commonwealth and the WA Government have agreed to finalise arrangements for the full roll-out of the NDIS in WA by the end of 2016 for commencement of full transition from 1 July 2017.

The Coalition Government has announced the establishment of the NDIS Savings Fund Special Account to ensure the ongoing funding of the NDIS.

Savings from across Government will be credited to the fund to meet the \$4.4 billion annual NDIS funding gap from 2019/20 that Labor left behind. This funding gap is expected to grow to over \$6 billion over the next decade.

Over \$2 billion in savings have been committed to the Fund in the 2016-17 Budget.

The Coalition is working constructively with States and Territories to ensure that the NDIS governance structures are agile and responsive as we commence the critical next step in transition to full scheme, to ensure that the NDIS can be delivered sustainably, on time and on budget.

Through the Turnbull Government's chairing of the Council of Australian Governments Disability Reform Council (DRC), the DRC has endorsed the Specialist Disability Accommodation Housing and Pricing Framework; an Integrated Market, Sector and Workforce Strategy; an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Policy Framework; a Rural and Remote Service Delivery Strategy; and agreed in-principle to the key features of a national quality and safeguards framework for the scheme. These are all critical policy components essential to the delivery of the scheme.

Why we can't risk Labor

Labor like to claim the NDIS as their own. However, Labor's implementation of the NDIS was led more by political expediency, rather than sound policy development.

Labor signed up the Commonwealth to agreements which were some of the best deals the States have ever received in the history of Commonwealth-State relations – with the Commonwealth bearing 100 per cent of the financial risk and very little control to manage this risk.

To meet its election timetable, Labor commenced the NDIS trials a year ahead of the Productivity Commission's recommendation on 1 July 2013.

A review of the capabilities of the NDIA, released in early 2014 found that "the Agency is like a plane that took off before it had been fully built and is being completed while it is in the air."

It is no wonder that during the first quarter of the operation of the NDIS under Labor (July – September 2013), the average cost of an NDIS package for participants was 30% higher than anticipated.

If these higher than expected costs had continued, it could have seen a blowout in the total cost of the full scheme of billions of dollars.

Labor claim they fully funded the NDIS but they left behind a \$4.4 billion funding gap for the NDIS from 2019-20.