



people with
disabilities
western
australia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PWdWA Calls for Changes in Election Policy
Commitments**

People With Disabilities WA (PWdWA) is encouraged by the Australian Labor Party's measures and initiatives provided in its platform to defend and fix the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and calls on the Coalition to outline and match these comments on its policy beyond its commitment to "fully fund" the NDIS.

"While the NDIS has provided the opportunity for thousands of people with disability across Australia to receive support for the first time, there are continuing concerns with people struggling to gain access or having funding in existing plans indiscriminately reduced. This has led to significant increase in people appealing at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal," said PWdWA Chair, Tom Monks.

"Advocacy organisations like PWdWA across Australia are stretched beyond their capacity to provide support and while we are pleased to note Labor's commitment to double existing support for disability advocacy, the system needs to be urgently reviewed. PWdWA calls for changes to stop the waste and eliminate the stress and trauma that people are experiencing in dealing with the NDIS, including the wholesale outsourcing of matters to legal firms. Moreover, it is highly unjust for people with disability to undergo the appeals process against the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), which is well resourced, causing a significant power imbalance. Changes to the NDIS must be informed by people with disability and it is pleasing to note Labor's commitment to co-design changes and have more people with disability in leadership roles at the NDIA."

PWdWA calls for all parties to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to mainstream employment and eliminating income disparity including segregated work environments that currently exist under Australian Disability Enterprises.

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