

PROJECT AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME PARTICIPANT TRANSITION IN QUEENSLAND

An agreement between:

- the **Commonwealth of Australia**; and
- the **State of Queensland**

The output of this project will be the implementation and evaluation of four projects to increase the number of Queensland participants in the NDIS.

Project Agreement to improve National Disability Insurance Scheme participant transition in Queensland

OVERVIEW

1. This Project Agreement (the Agreement) is created subject to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA FFR) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement and its Schedules, which provide information in relation to performance reporting and payment arrangements under the IGA FFR.

Purpose

2. This Agreement will support the delivery of the NDIS in Queensland through increasing the number of NDIS participants in Queensland.

Reporting Arrangements

3. Queensland will report at specified timeframes against the agreed milestones during the operation of this Agreement, as set out in Part 4 – Project Milestones, Reporting and Payments.

Financial Arrangements

4. The Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) will provide an estimated total financial contribution to Queensland of \$20,000,000 exclusive of GST in respect of this Agreement, as set out in Part 5 – Financial Arrangements.

PART 1 – FORMALITIES

5. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement for this project.

Parties to this Agreement

6. This Agreement is between the Commonwealth and Queensland.

Term of the Agreement

7. This Agreement will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and Queensland sign it and will expire on 31 December 2022 or on completion of the project, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

PART 2 – PROJECT OUTPUTS

Outputs

8. The outputs of this Agreement will be the implementation and evaluation of four projects to increase the number of NDIS participants in Queensland. The four projects are:
 - (a) Project 1: The establishment of Assessment and Referral Teams (ARTs) to assist potential participants in recognised priority cohorts to access the NDIS, such as:
 - people in rural, regional and remote communities;
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - school leavers;
 - adult prisoners and children in youth detention centres; and
 - adults on community service orders.
 - (b) Project 2: Targeted funding to non-government organisations to help identify potential participants in the priority cohorts and other hard-to-reach or vulnerable community members for 'warm' referral to ARTs.
 - (c) Project 3: Building Market Capacity by supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and individuals to become registered NDIS providers in rural, regional and remote communities where there is demand for services and tight supply.
 - (d) Project 4: Contributing to a study into plan underutilisation by NDIS participants.

PART 3 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTY

Role of the Commonwealth

9. The Commonwealth will be responsible for:
 - (a) monitoring and assessing achievement against milestones in the delivery of the strategic investments under this Agreement to ensure outputs are delivered within agreed timeframes; and
 - (b) providing a consequent financial contribution to Queensland, in accordance with the Part 4 – Project Milestones, Reporting and Payments, to support the implementation of this Agreement.

Role of Queensland

10. Queensland will be responsible for:
 - (a) all aspects of delivering on the project outputs set out in this Agreement;
 - (b) reporting on project delivery and outputs, as per Part 4 – Project Milestones, Reporting and Payments; and
 - (c) managing the initiatives, working closely with Commonwealth officials to ensure the four projects do not duplicate or conflict with current or imminent NDIA and Commonwealth-led initiatives.

Shared roles

11. The Parties will meet the requirements of Schedule E, Clause 26 of the IGA FFR, by ensuring that prior agreement is reached on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to activities under this Agreement, and that the roles of both Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.

PART 4 – PROJECT MILESTONES, REPORTING AND PAYMENTS

12. Tables 1-4 summarise the milestones for each project, their relationship to the outputs, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments to be made. The Commonwealth will make payments subject to Queensland providing a performance report at the specified due date in Tables 1-4 demonstrating the relevant milestone has been met.

Table 1: Project 1 - Assessment and Referral Teams

Outputs	Performance milestones	Report Due	Payment
Progress report on preliminary works	Preliminary works for Phase 1	15/01/2020	\$3.0m
Progress report on Phase 1 (early launch)	Completion of Phase 1 (early launch in 4 transition locations)	1/7/2020	\$4.0m
Progress report on Phase 2	Phase 2 operationalised (addition of 5 transition locations – 9 in total)	2/11/2020	\$3.0m
Progress report on Phase 3	Phase 3 operationalised (addition of 5 transition locations – 14 in total)	1/7/2021	\$5.8m
Final project report and funding acquittal	Project completion	15/05/2022	\$0.2m

Table 2: Targeted Funding Outreach

Outputs	Performance milestones	Report Due	Payment
Progress report on preliminary works	Interim report – Targeted Outreach project	15/01/2020	\$0.5m
Interim Progress Report 1	Interim report – Targeted Outreach delivered in phase 1 locations. Report to document results in Phase 1 locations, including number of potential participants referred to Assessment and Referral Teams	1/7/2020	\$1.0m
Interim Progress Report 2	Interim Report – Targeted Outreach delivered in phase 2 locations. Report to document results in Phase 2 locations, including number of potential participants referred to Assessment and Referral Teams	1/7/2021	\$0.65m
Final Project Report	Project Completion - Targeted Outreach delivered in phase 3 locations.	15/05/2022	\$0.10

Table 3: Building Market Capacity

Outputs	Performance milestones	Report Due	Payment
Progress report on preliminary works	Interim Report on preliminary work. Report to document results of preliminary work, including update on inter-agency collaboration, engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and individuals.	1/7/2020	\$0.675m
Interim Progress Report	Interim Report on ongoing work. Report to document outcomes of ongoing collaboration and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations and individuals, and plan for final phase of project.	1/7/2021	\$0.65m
Final Project Report	Project Completion Report - outcomes of Building Market Capacity project.	15/05/2022	\$0.175m

Table 4: Research partnerships

Outputs	Performance milestones	Due Date	Payment
Research plan drafted	Phase 1 – Study on plan utilisation commenced (draft report)	1/7/2020	\$0.20m
Study report delivered	Study on plan utilisation completed	15/05/2022	\$0.05m

Reporting arrangements

13. Queensland will provide written performance reports in accordance with the dates specified in Tables 1-4 during the operation of the Agreement. Each performance report is to contain a description of work undertaken and completed in the period to date against the project outputs.

PART 5 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

14. The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to Queensland of \$20.0 million in respect of this Agreement. All payments are GST exclusive.
15. The Commonwealth’s funding contribution will not be reduced where Queensland secures funding from other activity partners.
16. The Commonwealth’s estimated financial contributions to the operation of this Agreement, including through National Partnership payments to Queensland paid in accordance with *Schedule D – Payment Arrangements* of the IGA FFR, are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Estimated financial contributions

(\$ million)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Estimated total budget	3.5	8.9	7.6	20.0
Less estimated National Partnership Payments	3.5	8.9	7.6	20.0
Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

17. Having regard to the agreed estimated costs of projects specified in this Agreement, Queensland will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, Queensland bears all risk should the costs of a project exceed the agreed estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for Queensland to deliver projects cost effectively and efficiently.

PART 6 – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Enforceability of the Agreement

18. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties’ commitment to this Agreement.

Variation of the Agreement

19. The Agreement may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by both Parties.
20. Either Party to the Agreement may terminate their participation in the Agreement at any time by notifying the other Party in writing.

Delegations

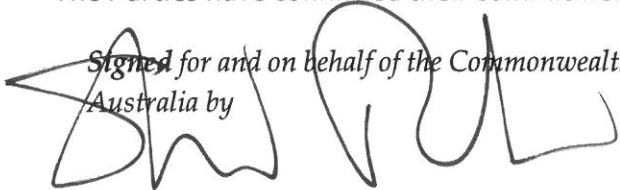
21. The Commonwealth Minister with responsibility for the NDIS may delegate the assessment of performance against milestones and the authorisation of related project payments to senior Commonwealth officials, having regard to the financial and policy risks associated with those payments.

Dispute resolution

22. Either Party may give notice to other Party of a dispute under this Agreement.
23. Officials of both Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
24. If a dispute cannot be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the relevant Ministers.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of
Australia by*



The Honourable Stuart Robert MP
Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*



The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP
Minister for Disability Services and Seniors