

**Commonwealth actions to address Senator Reynolds's five-point plan targeting improved outcomes for young people in residential aged care (YPIRAC)
As at June 2017**

Item	Suggested actions	Commonwealth actions
1. Reduce the bureaucratic hurdles to get into the NDIS and support young people to get in	<p>a. The Commonwealth should designate being in residential aged care a program that makes these young people automatically meet the NDIS requirements. The Commonwealth should write to the NDIA and direct them to add aged care to the list of 75 programs across Australia that are listed as giving automatic entry to the NDIS.</p>	<p>i. The NDIA is putting in place measures to individualise the access request and planning processes for this cohort, including face-to-face appointments.</p> <p>ii. The Departments of Social Services and Health, and the NDIA are working together to share data to help streamline the access request process.</p> <p>iii. The reason we cannot designate this group as a defined program is because some people under 65 in residential aged care may not meet NDIS eligibility as they primarily require aged care as a result of a medical condition.</p>
	<p>b. The Commonwealth and NDIA should commit to a one-off initiative to get all young people in nursing homes fully connected to the NDIS. The NDIA should set a target of Local Area Coordinators to work with every young person in aged care; or should fund a specialist LAC service for young people in aged care. Alternatively, the Commonwealth could fund a dedicated outreach initiative to make sure all 6,000 young people get an NDIS funded plan.</p>	<p>i. The NDIA's Regional Networks have dedicated teams who are making early contact with people under 65 in residential aged care to arrange face-to-face access requests a priority.</p>
	<p>c. The NDIA should update its training to NDIS planners to ensure that that all young people in aged care coming into the NDIS have the opportunity to leave aged care. The NDIA's policy is that all young people should be asked whether they wish to consider leaving aged care and the NDIA should automatically include a 'Housing Options Package' in their plan. This is not happening on the ground and requires more training and quality assurance reviews by NDIA to ensure it is being operationalised.</p>	<p>i. During the face-to-face planning conversation, the NDIA planner will ask the young person about their goals. The NDIA's Regional Networks will offer the Exploring Housing Options Package to those who indicate it is their goal to consider alternative accommodation where it is reasonable and necessary and appropriate.</p>

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<p>2. Bring young people in aged care into the NDIS faster and with a higher priority</p>	<p>a. The State and Commonwealth Governments should amend the ‘phasing schedule’ for the NDIS so that young people in aged care be eligible for the NDIS within the first three months of the NDIS becoming available.</p>	<p>i. People under 65 in residential aged care are already prioritised to enter the scheme early in each roll-out quarter under the existing phasing schedule.</p> <p>ii. As the transition rate of this group into the NDIS currently falls short of the bilateral estimate of 1,813 by 30 June 2017, the current phasing schedule does not present a barrier to transition. Disability Ministers agreed on 3 March 2017 that transitioning young people in residential aged care to the NDIS is a priority. As such, the Commonwealth is confident jurisdictions would agree to amend phasing schedules if it was determined the schedules were hindering this prioritisation.</p>
	<p>b. The NDIS should report publicly on the number of young people in aged care who have become eligible participants, and the number of young people who have not yet been registered with the Scheme. This should be compared against the ‘phasing schedule’ set down by governments, reported quarterly and broken down by NDIS site.</p>	<p>i. The NDIA has committed to reporting on the number of active participants with NDIS plans aged under 65 in residential aged care in its quarterly reports. Indicators, such as disability type, age and location, will be included.</p>
<p>3. Bring forward support for young people in aged care who live in the last roll out sites</p>	<p>a. The Commonwealth should bring forward the NDIS ‘Housing Options Package’ funding for all young people in aged care who live in locations where the NDIS is only available after November 2017. This would fund young people in aged care to undertake all the preparations to leave aged care so their first NDIA plan is the funding to leave aged care, not just to develop a plan to leave.</p>	<p>i. To be effectively implemented, supports that enable the participant to explore housing solutions is completed as part of the planning conversation with NDIA Planners. This will commence when the NDIA has infrastructure in place to support its Planners to arrange these planning conversations. The NDIA seeks to establish infrastructure and Local Area Coordinators six months before transition commenced in order to focus on participant readiness.</p>
	<p>b. The Commonwealth and States could also consider amending the ‘Facilitating Participants Plans’ Rule to allow a young person at serious risk of aged care entry to become an NDIS participant immediately, allowing people who do not live in a location where the NDIS has officially begun to submit an out of area request.</p>	<p>i. The NDIA seeks to establish infrastructure and Local Area Coordinators six months before transition commences in order to focus on participant readiness in regions not yet covered by the NDIS.</p>

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<p>4. Build the capacity of aged care providers to be ready for the NDIS</p>	<p>a. Better prepare aged care providers to get their young residents into the NDIS. The Department of Health should fund a targeted information campaign and provider workshops to skill up aged care providers who have young residents.</p>	<p>i. The Department of Health has commenced targeted communication for aged care providers to assist them to facilitate transition for their younger residents to the NDIS. This includes providing information online as well as directly to aged care providers.</p> <p>ii. A number of initiatives have also received grant funding from several organisations to assist with improved understanding of the NDIA by aged care providers and the health sector.</p>
<p>5. Stop the pipeline of entry into aged care by making the NDIS work better for those in hospital.</p>	<p>a. The NDIS and health systems need to work more closely together to ensure that when a young person is ready to leave hospital they can return to the community as quickly as possible, rather than being discharged into aged care. The State and Commonwealth should declare fixing the hospital discharge pathway with the NDIS a strategic priority for 2017. The Disability Reform Council should establish a group of experts that reports back with a strategic plan to address the health-disability interface, including discharge planning, access to slow stream rehabilitation and clinical services in the community.</p> <p>b. Local working arrangements should be developed between the NDIA and each hospital and Aged Care Assessment Team to ensure that young people in hospital ready for discharge are immediately provided with an NDIS plan to return to the community, and not discharged into aged care. This should include consideration of whether an additional discharge planning role is needed to make sure young people in hospital do not fall through the cracks or suffer from blame and cost shifting between the NDIA and hospitals. The NDIA should review its internal access request and planning processes to ensure these cases can be processed quickly.</p>	<p>i. The Commonwealth and the NDIA are working with state and territory health services to consider ways to improve discharge planning processes.</p> <p>ii. This may include hospital staff involving the NDIA in arranging access to the scheme with funded supports to enable young people to be discharged into Specialist Disability Accommodation if possible, or discharged home with adequate funded supports.</p> <p>iii. The Summer Foundation’s Hospital Discharge project, currently being implemented in the Barwon and Grampians regions in Victoria, aims to develop strategies for ensuring successful transition of young people with a disability in hospitals into the NDIA.</p>

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	<p>c. The State and Commonwealth Governments should ensure that young people in hospital at risk of aged care become participants immediately by amending the 'Facilitating the Participant Plans' Rule and associated 'phasing schedule' for the NDIS to allow immediate access.</p>	
	<p>d. The NDIA and DoH should report publically on the number of young people who have entered aged care in sites where the NDIS is operating and this should be regularly considered by the Disability Reform Council (DRC) as part of the NDIS performance framework.</p>	<p>i. The NDIA has committed to reporting on the number of active participants with NDIS plans aged under 65 in residential aged care in its quarterly reports. Indicators, such as disability type, age and location, will be included.</p>