

#4aBetterNDIS

Why we need to be concerned about registered NDIS providers leaving the NDIS

Many registered and regulated NDIS service providers are not-for-profit organisations and charities. These providers play a crucial role in delivering essential services to people with disabilities, especially for people with higher support needs.

However, they are currently facing significant financial challenges. In a recent survey of its members the national organisation for service providers, National Disability Services, found that 75% of providers were considering stopping NDIS services. This is because they are under significant financial distress.

What is causing registered providers to consider leaving the NDIS?

1. **Massive losses:** Many not-for-profit NDIS providers are operating at a loss. This is because the cost of delivering NDIS services has increased but funding rates have not kept pace.
2. **Running out of cash reserves:** To continue offering services many providers have been using their financial reserves. However, these cash reserves are running out. Without these reserves providers may be forced to reduce or cease NDIS services altogether.
3. **Some providers are already leaving the NDIS.** The financial strain is causing providers to leave the NDIS now. This is only going to get worse as more providers run out of money. This will reduce the availability of important services for people with disabilities.

Why we need to be concerned

- **Risk of unsafe services:** When there are not enough registered providers, unregulated providers might step in to do support work 'on the cheap'. These providers may not follow the same safety and quality standards, increasing the risk of receiving unsafe or poor-quality services. This can put participants health and safety at risk.
- **Harder to find services:** With fewer registered providers, participants with higher supports needs may find it more difficult to get the supports they need. This can lead to long delays and gaps in your support, making it harder to achieve goals and improve quality of life. This will be worse in rural, regional and remote parts of Australia.
- **Longer wait lists.** As more providers leave, the wait lists for services get longer. This means participants might have to wait much longer to receive the support they need. Participants with much greater support needs may find these are not available from small unregulated operators.

What are we asking for?

1. **Independent Pricing:** We are asking the Government to implement independent pricing for NDIS services. This means having an external body set fair prices that reflect the real costs of providing services, ensuring providers can stay financially viable.
2. **Temporary Payment for Registered Providers:** We are asking the Government and the NDIA to reintroduce a temporary payment for registered providers while independent pricing is set up. This extra financial support will help providers cover their reasonable costs for providing safe services and prevent the collapse of essential NDIS services.

To learn more or support the campaign visit www.4abetterndis.com.au

