



Disability services reform

A total of \$86.9 million over four years is provided in the 2009-10 State Budget to continue the implementation of the Disability Reform Strategy. This will allow for more Individual Support Packages and a boost to the Transition to Employment program, giving people with a disability more support, choice and flexibility with funding.

New funding is also provided in the Children and Early Childhood Development portfolio to improve early childhood intervention services, including through enhanced cross-sectoral planning, introduction of a common assessment approach for children with a disability or developmental delay, and delivery of a new quality assurance framework.

The 2009-10 State Budget also provides additional capital funding for the construction of integrated community facilities and more appropriate accommodation options for younger people living in, or at risk of moving to, residential aged care.

A further \$4 million is provided in 2008-09 to assist disability services agencies to address cost pressures, upgrade infrastructure and develop business systems.

Expansion of self-directed supports - \$29.95 million over four years (\$7 million in 2009-10)

Additional Individual Support Packages have been provided to support people with a disability to access a range of services, supports and accommodation based on their needs and preferences. Individual Support Packages allow people to continue to live and participate in the life of the community, or to support families and carers in their caring role.

Strengthen transition to employment support - \$16.69 million over four years (\$3.9 million in 2009-10)

Transition to employment support provides young people with a disability who are leaving school with assistance in finding employment, or in accessing further education. With an increased focus on early planning with schools, this support enables young people to build the required skills, capacity and work experience to enter the workforce.

Reorient the service sector toward self-directed support and capability building - \$12.48 million over four years (\$3 million in 2009-10)

As part of the Disability Reform Program, funding is provided to assist community service organisations to continue the transition to self-directed approaches. These funds will assist organisations to strengthen their capacity to undertake strategic and business planning, and improve business efficiencies.

0-18 System Reform and Early Childhood Intervention Reform - \$9 million over four years

This 2009-10 budget initiative in the Children and Early Childhood Development portfolio will implement enhanced regional planning, introduce a common approach to assessment and develop a new data collection to inform planning and monitoring for children and young people with disabilities or a developmental delay. Over the four years this initiative will also deliver a

new early childhood intervention quality assurance framework, program standards, and a comprehensive workforce strategy.

Capital investments - \$18.8 million

The 2009-10 State Budget provides an additional \$13.8 million over four years in capital funding for Stage 2 of the *my future my choice* initiative to develop 13 purpose-built, age appropriate community-based accommodation options for 58 younger people with high support needs who are living in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care.

The Budget also provides \$5 million over three years to establish community based, collocated facilities where disability supports are integrated with other community services. This initiative aims to improve accessibility to community facilities for people with a disability and offer opportunities for them to participate in their local community.

Other disability services funding (\$21.1 million in 2009-10)

This new State funding is in addition to \$15.5 million provided in 2009-10 through the Disability Assistance Package, under the National Disability Agreement. This funding will enable further expansion of individual support packages, respite services, and aids and equipment. Additional State and Commonwealth output funding of \$5.6 million will also be provided in 2009-10 under the *my future my choice* initiative, to make better living options available to younger people living in, or at risk of entering, residential aged care.