

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

338. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to improving the lives of Western Australians with disability. Can the minister outline to the house what this government's record investment in the National Disability Insurance Scheme means for people with disability and their families?

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

I thank the member for the question and I am pleased to outline details of this government's record investment to support Western Australians living with disability.

On 13 December 2017, the state government made the decision that Western Australia would join the commonwealth-administered NDIS and entered into a bilateral agreement with the commonwealth on the transition to a National Disability Insurance Scheme in Western Australia. Western Australia's contribution to the NDIS is significant. More than \$900 million has been invested annually from 2021–22, and the 2023–24 state budget sees \$1.3 billion allocated to support NDIS participants. That brings WA's total expected contribution to \$3.8 billion over the forward estimates. The increased funding reflects around 7 700 additional participants relative to the forecast that was set at the start of the state's transition in 2018. The NDIS is a co-funded and co-governed national scheme that is now improving the lives of over 50 000 Western Australian participants as well as their families and carers, by ensuring that people with a permanent and significant disability find it easier to participate in and contribute to community life.

The McGowan government also acknowledges the role the state government has in supporting the sector, and it is clear that a well-supported disability sector is critical to the lives of people with disability. As a government, we are committed to continuing to support people with disability in health, education and all the service settings for both those receiving NDIS supports and those who do not. The state government took note of the experiences of other states that joined the scheme before us and we have taken a cautious approach to gradually transitioning services provided by the NDIS into joining the scheme. That measured approach has ensured that people with disability have not been disadvantaged. The state continues to meet its bilateral obligations and the NDIS market is enabled to mature.

Members would be aware that sustainability of the NDIS has risen to the national spotlight and resulted in the national cabinet agreeing to support a growth target of eight per cent by 2026. I want to reiterate the Premier's assurances that the state government has agreed to working with the commonwealth towards steadying the significant forecast growth of the scheme, but this is not a cap on supports. Although many Western Australian participants report positive outcomes from the NDIS, we know that some implementation issues are impacting scheme performance and participant outcomes in Western Australia, so I want to assure members that the McGowan government will work closely with the commonwealth government to understand how it plans to meet the eight per cent annual growth target while ensuring that the NDIS does more to meet the needs of people with disability in Western Australia.