

**NATIONAL DISABILITY
INSURANCE SCHEME
ON THE AGENDA FOR
VICTORIAN ELECTION**

The introduction of a landmark National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is firmly on the agenda as a mainstream issue for the 2010 Victorian Election, the National Disability and Carer Alliance said today.

National Disability and Carer Alliance Executive Director Kirsten Deane welcomed announcements by the Victorian Government and Victorian Opposition that each would champion the introduction of a National Disability Insurance Scheme if elected on November 27.

“Both the Premier John Brumby and Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu are to be congratulated for putting politics aside in the interests of people with a disability and their families,” said Ms Deane.

“The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a landmark reform which will finally ensure people with a disability and their families get the support they require to be active, contributing, participating members of their community.

“At the moment tens of thousands of Victorians with a disability and their families are not receiving adequate support. People are simply unable to get the kind of help they need, when they need it, to enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else in the community.

“The National Disability Insurance Scheme will change that picture and we are delighted that both parties have recognised the need for reform.”

Ms Deane said the announcements were significant because reform of this magnitude would require a high level of coordination and cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States.

“It is a good start and we look forward to hearing much more from all the political parties in the lead up to the state election,” she said.

“We need more detail about policies and programs and what resources they will provide to better support people with a disability and their families,” she said.

“All parties and all levels of government need to realise that the time for change has come.”

The National Disability and Carer Alliance was formed last year by National Disability Services, Carers Australia and the National Federation of Disability Organisations to pursue the structural and systemic changes necessary to improve the lives of people with a disability, their families and carers in this country. The Alliance is united in their strong support for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

For further information about the Alliance or the National Disability Insurance Scheme, please call Kirsten Deane, Executive Director, National Disability and Carer Alliance on 0409 565 925.