



## Victoria News Update

15 June 2009

### **Disability Services Sustainability Summit**

**10.30am – 2.00pm, Wednesday 1 July**

**15-21 Therry St, Melbourne**

NDS Victoria strongly encourages all CEOs to attend a critical meeting for the disability sector on Wednesday 1 July. This meeting has been convened in response to the threat to viability that many organisations are facing, in an environment where:

**1. Disability revenue has sharply declined.** 43% of respondents to a community sector survey reported decreased fundraising income, 53% reported decreased investment income and 58% of respondents indicated a reduction in overall revenues.

**2. Government has failed to make disability a priority.** The recent State budget held little increase for disability services:

- there was no real state-funded increase for accommodation
- there were only a handful of new individualised packages
- the offered 3.34% equivalent funding indexation was significantly less than we need
- the recommendations of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Price Review have not been implemented, and the review results are being kept secret. (We believe that disability services are up to 10% underfunded).

**3. Disability service organisations are likely to pay an extra 2% on top of their payroll.**

In addition to the poor budget result, disability organisations are likely to have to pay up to an extra 2% of their payroll for the upcoming Government-imposed Portable Long Service Leave Scheme.

**4. No additional funding has been provided for costs associated with the Disability Act.**

The sector has not received funding to support the costs of implementing the new Disability Act (estimated to be 1.5 - 2.5%) – especially those arising from the new Quality Framework and individualised funding.

**We need your commitment for a statewide campaign**

NDS is leading a statewide campaign leading up to the next State Budget and 2010 election.

This campaign will:

- raise the profile of disability issues
- ensure people with a disability get a fair go
- ensure your organisation gets fair funding
- ensure the sustainability of the disability sector

The Victorian Minister and Opposition Spokesperson have been invited to the Summit.

The Summit will:

- outline the current situation and implications for future viability
- identify the key issues and the impact on service provision
- invite you to contribute to our strategy to advocate for sustainable services for people with a disability
- seek your commitment to united sector action

Non-government disability service providers are a vital part of the Victorian community. They help foster quality of life for people with disability and do so very cost-effectively.

**NDS strongly urges chief executives, senior managers and board members to attend this important sector meeting.** If appropriate, please forward a copy of this update to your Board or Committee members to keep them well-informed.

For disability organisations and people with disability, this will be one of the most important campaigns of the decade.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the way forward, please contact State Manager Kerry Presser.

RSVP to Erin Davidson by Friday 26 June at [erin.davidson@nds.org.au](mailto:erin.davidson@nds.org.au). This event is **free of charge to members** and \$23 for non-members (covering catering costs). [Registration form](#) (for non-members)

---

**Contact Information:** Kerry Presser, State Manager, NDS Victoria, Ph 03 8341 4301, [kerry.presser@nds.org.au](mailto:kerry.presser@nds.org.au)