

Fact Sheet

Disability Services

Achievements in 2008-09

- Key achievements in Disability Services surround the introduction of the new Gateway Services, Integrated Support Services, Partnership Teams in each of the four Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services (DCYFS) Area Offices and new governance models.
- A key component of the Disability Reforms announced by the Government in June 2008 was the provision of extra disability services. Additional services have been provided to people with disabilities, with all targets for new places and extended services established in the bilateral agreement with the Australian Government achieved or exceeded:

| Service type | Target for 2008-09 | Number achieved |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Respite | 120 | 95 |
| Community access | | 69 |
| Supported Accommodation | 12 | 20 |
| Individual Support Packages | 75 | 85 |

- The Strategic Framework for Disability Services was finalised in consultation with a range of key stakeholders and published.
- A working party involving officers of DCYFS, the Reform Unit, the disability sector and advocacy groups has been working to develop the model for Gateways service and case management to be extended to people with disabilities and their families from 2010.
- National Disability Services is undertaking a consultancy to identify best practice in provision of community access models for people with disabilities.
- Research and consultation has been undertaken to develop a new model of Respite Care.
- A new model for children's therapy services has been finalised through extensive consultation and will be implemented from July.
- A new contract for children's therapy in the south of the state has been awarded to St Giles Incorporated.
- A new state-wide autism team that will provide specialised assessment of children with autism has been appointed to work under the specialist guidance and supervision of ASPECT autism services from NSW. The first assessments were undertaken by the team in June.

Key areas for 2009-10

- The Government has quarantined the reform of Disability Services, Out of Home Care and Family Services from budget cuts and the reform will proceed according to the previously announced budget commitments.
- Extra funding of \$7.0m has been provided in the current budget with a total of \$28 million over four years to meet salary increases for disability workers in non government organisations, which was fundamental to ensuring reform of the disability sector was able to proceed as planned.
- Work to amend the *Disability Services Act 1992* has begun, with a project plan written and a Steering Group appointed to meet for the first time in July.
- In each Area, a Disability Services practitioner network will be established. The networks will identify and plan training and development needs, share practice wisdom, and identify areas for service improvement.
- The Disability model for Gateways will be completed and implemented.
- The Resource allocation and funding model will be implemented.
- Service standards and specifications for respite services, community access services and Service Co-ordination will be completed.
- Tender for new services will be undertaken.
- A new database will be developed.
- A new model of Resource Teams will be developed and implemented.