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Preparation for WA's transition to NDIS largely effective but risks remain

The Auditor General has presented to State Parliament today an audit report of WA's preparedness to move onto the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS represents a substantial change in the way Western Australians with a permanent and significant disability receive funding and access support services.

The NDIS is expected to double the funding for disability services to nearly \$2 billion a year and improve access to support services for over 40,000 Western Australians by 2023.

Auditor General Caroline Spencer said the State's transition to the scheme has not been without its challenges for people with disability, government entities and service providers.

'However, the entities have been largely effective in preparing WA for the transition and responsive in addressing many emerging challenges.

'The Departments of Communities, the Premier and Cabinet, and Treasury have drawn on WA's long experience in delivering disability services and learnt from the experiences of other jurisdictions, to effectively manage the early risks to WA in transitioning to the NDIS,' Ms Spencer said.

Although the original targets for transitioning people onto the NDIS were not met - a process over which the State has little influence - early lengthy negotiations and studies that analysed actual disability prevalence in WA meant the State has avoided paying several hundred million dollars a year for services not being received by West Australians.

However, risks remain and any delays in achieving full and timely implementation may result in the State paying for unused services.

Ms Spencer said WA is in the third year of a 6-year transition and the entities need to closely monitor and manage ongoing transition risks so the expected benefits are fully realised for people with disability, and shifting or duplication of costs and services does not occur.

'This includes clear determination of WA's role, the monitoring and management of transition and implementation risks, negotiation on interim transition targets and agreement on payment obligations.

'Crucial is the important step of formalising arrangements to ensure the State only pays the Commonwealth for the actual number of participants in the scheme from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023,' Ms Spencer said.

The report includes recommendations to assist State entities with continued implementation of NDIS.

Report resources

- [PDF version](#)
- [online version](#)
- [summary video](#)