

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 22 June 2017

More support for South Australians living with disability

Parents and carers of South Australians living with disability will have greater access to changing facilities following a 2017-18 State Budget investment in the Changing Places program.

Changing Places campaigns for more accessible public toilets with special features and more space to assist people with a disability and their carers.

The 2017-18 State Budget includes \$200,000 to partner with local government and non-government organisations to install five Changing Places fit-outs at popular public spaces throughout Adelaide.

Changing Places ensures parents and carers have a hygienic and dignified place to care for their loved one when out in public.

Each Changing Places facility has a height-adjustable changing bench equipped to support adults, a tracking hoist and space for two people.

The locations of the facilities will be announced following consultation.

For more information about Changing Places visit www.changingplaces.org.au

Background

The State Budget also includes an additional \$2.5 million in funding in 2016-17 for disability services in South Australia as the state transitions to the full roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This includes funding for accommodation support, respite services and community access programs.

The NDIS is a new way of providing support for people with disability, their families and carers in Australia.

It will provide all Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live the life they choose.

Children have been entering the scheme in South Australia since 2013. On 1 July this year, the roll-out begins for adults according to their geographical area, starting with the Barossa, Light and Lower North regions, and the local government areas of Playford, Salisbury and Port Adelaide (east).

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Changing Places is an incredibly important initiative aimed at making the lives of South Australians living with disability more inclusive.

The State Government is committed to supporting South Australians with a disability which is why our state has led the way in adopting the NDIS.

At full rollout in 2018-19, the State Government will contribute \$723 million annually, indexed thereafter, to the NDIS, which will see total funding for disability services in South Australia double to \$1.5 billion annually.

This is expected to create about 6000 new jobs in South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Disabilities Minister Leesa Vlahos

Changing Places is a great initiative that helps improve access and increase dignity for South Australians living with disability.

On behalf of the State Government, I'd like to thank Kelly Vincent MLC for her advocacy for this and other projects aimed at increasing support for people with disability.

With the NDIS about to be rolled out in Adelaide's north, there are increasing opportunities for South Australians living with disability to access the services they need, when they need them.

Media Contact: David Russell 0434 307 012