



Family &
Community
Services

Stronger Together 2 Annual Report 2012-2013



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Introduction

Through *Stronger Together 2*, the NSW Government committed more than \$2 billion of new funding to deliver additional support to people with disability, their families and carers across NSW from 2011–12 to 2015–16.

This substantial investment is increasing choice and control for people with disability by providing more person centred and flexible supports and individualised funding arrangements. It is also facilitating a lifespan approach to ensure people with disability can access services at key life stages and throughout life.

This is the second *Stronger Together 2* annual report. It represents the results achieved in the second year of our five year investment program. It highlights significant achievements and progress towards meeting our reform goals and places targets.

There have been many successes – most notably, the delivery of 18,173 new places over the first two years – exceeding the target of 17,790. This result means we have achieved about 40 percent of our five year places target and invested about 23 percent of our \$2 billion commitment, with three years remaining for the program.

Consultations in 2011–12 with around 4,000 people with disability, their families, carers, service providers and peak groups, informed the *Living Life My Way* framework to deliver individualised supports and funding.

In December 2012, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments reached agreement to establish the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in NSW from July 2018. The *Stronger Together 2* reforms provided the platform and funding for NSW to support the introduction of the NDIS.

To take account of the NDIS, the future years of *Stronger Together 2* investment have been reshaped – to expand opportunities to use individualised supports and funding arrangements, and to access support to make decisions and plan for the future.

The reshaped reform agenda, *Ready Together*, builds on *Stronger Together 2*. It recasts the remaining three years of *Stronger Together 2* growth funding so people with disability, and service providers, are best prepared for their transition to the NDIS.

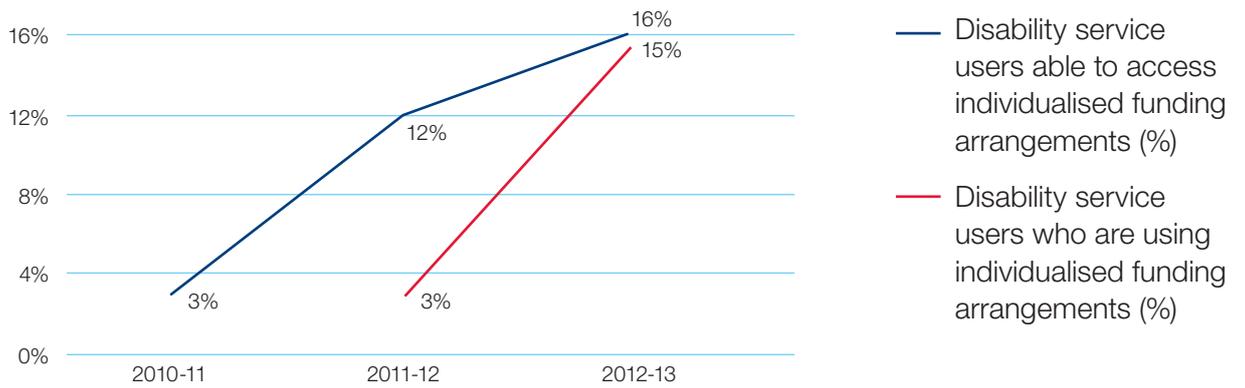
Person centred approaches

Through *Stronger Together 2* and *Ready Together*, NSW is continuing to transform the disability service system to deliver choice and control for people with disability.

2012–13 achievements include:

- Launching Ability Links NSW. On 10 April 2013, it was announced that St Vincent de Paul Society had been appointed to provide Ability Links NSW in the Hunter area. A total of 35 linkers have been employed. As Ability Links NSW rolls out across the State, it will employ 248 linkers, including 27 Aboriginal identified positions. The first Aboriginal Ability Links positions will commence in early 2014 following the announcement, in December 2013, that the Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre has been appointed to deliver Ability Links for the Aboriginal Community in the Hunter.
- Delivering an additional 100 Supported Living Fund and Individual Accommodation Support Packages over and above the 2012–13 targets.
- Rolling out *My Choice Matters*, the \$5 million NSW Consumer Development Fund, involving local workshops for people with disability, their families and carers commenced in May 2013. By October 2013, more than 720 people had participated in 29 workshops. It is estimated that 4,000 people with disability will benefit from *My Choice Matters*.
- Appointing 19 *Living Life My Way* Ambassadors and Champions in March 2013, to share their stories about how they have managed their supports so they can encourage and build other people's confidence to do the same. Ambassadors and Champions are also helping to raise community awareness about self-directed supports.
- Developing a self assessment toolkit for service providers and accompanying roadmap with National Disability Services (NDS), to support the transition to individualised supports.

As demonstrated in the following graph, *Stronger Together 2* has increased opportunities for people with disability to use and access individualised funding. Sixteen percent of disability service users are able to access individualised funding and 15 percent of disability service users are currently using individualised funding.



Source: NSW 2021 Performance Report 2013-2014 and ADHC data.

A lifespan approach

The lifespan approach continues to increase supports and services that are flexible and able to be adjusted to support people with disability to meet goals and milestones at key points in their lives.

2012–13 achievements:

By the end of 2012–13, over the first two years of *Stronger Together 2*, we have delivered:

- 899 new supported accommodation places, including significant growth in individual accommodation support packages, support for people leaving care, and in group home accommodation.
- Over 1,200 places to support young people with a disability leaving school through the Community Participation and Transition to Work programs.
- 736 places in the Life Choices and Active Ageing programs to support adults with a disability to engage with the community.
- 126 intensive family support packages, 51 of which were delivered by Aboriginal service support teams for Aboriginal families.
- 200 Transition Support places to support secondary students in schools to make the transition to post-school settings through mentoring, work experience and vocational education.

In 2012–13, *Stronger Together 2* was responsible for more than 3.5 million hours of additional flexible respite to support people with disability and their families and carers.

A new reform strategy, *Strengthening Supports for Children and Families 0-8 years*, has commenced, with a focus on strengthening mainstream services to support children with disability, supported by the specialist system and increased access to prevention and early intervention supports.

Other achievements in 2012–13 include:

- Supporting 11 mainstream pre-school services across greater western Sydney to support children with autism and their families. This included opening an autism specific child care centre in western Sydney in January 2013.
- Commencing work with Early Childhood Intervention Australia (NSW Chapter) to lead culture and practice change by supporting best practice models of inclusion across mainstream and specialist early childhood services.
- Working to increase access to supports for culturally and linguistically diverse communities through the *Building Inclusive Communities* strategy.
- Allocating \$1.5 million to Surf Life Saving NSW to increase accessibility at beaches for people with physical disability by purchasing up to 800 beach wheel chairs and making beaches and surf life saving activities accessible to people with disability.

Large Residential Centre redevelopment

The NSW Government is committed to redeveloping all large residential centres by 2018. Over the past 10 years, more than 550 people have moved from large residential centres to new accommodation.

Under *Stronger Together 2* and *Ready Together*, Government and non-government organisation (NGO) large residential centres will be redeveloped, to provide more contemporary, home-like accommodation, which offers more privacy, more flexibility in daily living routines and more opportunities for participation in the local community.

2012–13 achievements:

- Providing \$9.3 million to NGOs to progress the redevelopment of large residential centres operated by Achieve Australia, AFFORD Foundation, Newhaven Farm, Warrah Society, Fairhaven, Thorndale and Dundaloo. These 11 redevelopments will provide 58 homes for 289 people with disability.
- Progressing the redevelopment of Westmead and Rydalmere, with 21 sites acquired to build 31 homes for 143 current residents. There are 14 homes scheduled to open before July 2014. Residents are being carefully matched and, where possible, are being moved to locations closer to their families.
- A dedicated consultation team, established on site at Rydalmere, has been working with each resident and their families to develop individual and comprehensive transition plans based on their support needs, preferences and choices. Their involvement is critical as they have decided the location and type of accommodation and service they need, which has resulted in resident's homes being built closer to their families, transport, and community and recreational facilities.

A service system with the right capacity

Stronger Together 2 provides support to enable the disability sector to transition successfully to individualised funding arrangements and person centred service delivery.

Partnerships and planning with the NGO sector, mainstream agencies and the community is improving outcomes for people with disability.

2012–13 achievements:

- Delivering support for NGOs under the Industry Development Fund, administered by National Disability Services NSW (NDS) in partnership with ADHC, including:
 - Six rounds of Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) training attended by 144 NGO Board members.
 - Tools and resources provided to the sector to implement the *NSW Quality Framework* to apply a risk based approach to assist NGOs in demonstrating they are delivering quality services that meet individual and community expectations.
 - 18 Aboriginal Resources and Pathways Networks across NSW involving over 390 network participants.
 - Face to face visits to over 290 NGOs to conduct guided conversations utilising the NSW Sector Reform Roadmap. All NGOs in the NDIS Hunter launch site were visited.
 - Two rounds of leadership development courses for emerging leaders focusing on person centred service delivery.
- Continued delivery of the Workforce Recruitment Strategy, which up to 30 June 2013, saw Carecareers carry over 18,000 job advertisements, receive over 40,000 job applications, and register over 30,000 candidates in the talent pool.
- Release of the *Sector Planning Framework*, representing a major change to disability planning in NSW. The framework will help local communities to deliver a person centred and lifespan approach to disability supports and help ensure people with disability can access mainstream services and participate in the general community. Consultation, planning and partnership work has commenced in over 22 local communities across NSW.

Places delivered

	2012–13 Actual	5 year target to 30 June 2016
Supported Accommodation	899	1,750
Supported Living Fund	259	300
Leaving Care	153	550
Community Justice Program	70	200
Other special support services	417	700
Flexible Respite options	2,827	4,500
Day and Post School programs	2,026	5,370
Transition to Work program	218	570
Community engagement for adults	736	2,000
Community participation program	1,072	2,800
Community and family support	8,001	14,980
Intensive in home support	118	300
Autism flexible funding	448	1,000
Enhanced therapy and behaviour support	2,965	4,700
Skill development for children and young people	2,510	3,700
Building support networks	309	600
Early Start Diagnosis support workers	1,325	3,600
Aboriginal and family intensive support	126	380
Transition support for secondary students	200	700
Decision support services	4,420	20,600
Total	18,173	47,200

Note: As implementation progresses, there are expected to be variations in expenditure and places across service areas reflecting individual choice and portability.

Annual places totals and related expenditure are cumulative from 2011.

Expenditure over the first two years of *Stronger Together 2*

Program	2011–12 total (\$m)	2012–13 total (\$m)	2 year total (\$m)
Person centred approaches	7.9	19.0	27.0
Decision support services	7.1	7.6	14.7
Training in person-centred approaches	0.1	2.5	2.6
Supported living fund	0.7	9.0	9.7
Life span approach	78.1	208.1	286.1
Intensive in home support	3.9	6.8	10.7
Autism flexible funding	0.7	3.4	4.1
Enhanced therapy and behaviour support	1.7	10.3	12.0
Skill development for children and young people	5.3	20.7	25.9
Building support networks	0.1	0.6	0.6
Early start diagnosis support workers	0.1	1.0	1.0
Aboriginal and family intensive support	0.9	3.1	4.0
Flexible respite options	4.8	19.2	24.0
Transition to Work program	1.4	3.1	4.5
Community participation program	15.5	32.4	47.9
Transition support for secondary students	0.1	0.5	0.6
Community engagement for adults	1.6	9.9	11.5
Interagency planning	0.9	1.9	2.7
Community groups	0.0	0.5	0.5
Leaving care	13.5	26.0	39.5
Community justice program	0.9	8.5	9.3
Other special support services	26.8	60.3	87.2

Program	2011–12 total (\$m)	2012–13 total (\$m)	2 year total (\$m)
Large residential developments	43.7	32.4	76.1
Metro (Westmead & Rydalmere)	32.3	20.1	52.4
Stockton	0.3	2.9	3.1
NGO LRCs	11.1	9.5	20.6
A service with the right capacity	8.1	18.6	26.7
Research and development	3.1	10.1	13.2
Social impact bonds	0.0	0.0	0.0
Workforce and industry development	5.0	8.5	13.5
Other accommodation supports		17.4	17.4
Capital rollover		18.3	18.3
Hunter launch rollover		6.5	6.5
Total	137.8	320.3	458.1