

Media Release

Every Australian Counts – Campaign to Commuters Wednesday 15 June 2011

On Wednesday 15 June, Achieve Australia will join with the volunteers from across the disability sector to take our campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) message to CityRail commuters.

Achieve Australia will be at Eastwood Train Station during the morning peak hour period from 7am to 9am to ask commuters to sign up as supporters of the campaign.

Our campaign message to commuters is that:

In Australia we are letting down people with a disability, their families and carers. We need an NDIS to make it easier for people to access essential care, support, therapy, equipment, early intervention and training. An NDIS would mean Every Australian will count.

Achieve Australia Chief Executive Officer Anne Bryce said: "If you aren't a person living with a disability, aren't caring for a person with a disability or don't know anybody living with a disability, then you probably never think about it and don't realise disability can happen any time, any place, to anyone. And unlike the health system there is no support system for people living with a disability."

"Most Australians think that if you or someone you love acquires a disability at birth, through illness or injury that you and your family's needs will be looked after. Nothing could be further from the truth. The reality is the system is underfunded and inflexible and leaves people with few if any choices. An NDIS would revolutionise disability services and make sure Australians with a disability are supported. An NDIS will make every Australian Count" concluded Mrs Bryce.

On 15 June, at more than 15 railway, bus and ferry stations across the CityRail network volunteers from: Achieve Australia, the House with No Steps, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Life Without Barriers, Northcott, Disability Services Australia, Ability Options, Carers NSW, Autism Spectrum, Afford Foundation, Paraquad and Lifestart will distribute post cards to commuters.

This event is the first public campaigning for the Every Australian Counts campaign.

Daniel Kyriacou, NSW Every Australian Counts campaign coordinator said: "The aim of our campaign is to convince Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott to support the introduction of an NDIS. For decades, people with a disability, their families and carers have been left to deal with an underfunded and inefficient system of disability support. The reality is that more often than not basic supports like wheelchairs, aides for the home, early intervention support and out of home care are simply not funded or have unbearably long waiting lists. It's time the system was fixed. Its time every Australian counts".

People can also sign up at www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au.

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