Panel

- **Teena Balgi**, Senior Policy Officer, Supported Living Team, Mental Health Branch

- **Steven Davison**, Director, Social Policy Implementation Unit, Government Relations Branch

- **Vince Ponzio**, Director, Intellectual Disability Mental Health, Mental Health Branch
Opportunities for people with mental illness

• The Productivity Commission estimated that approximately 64,000 people with severe mental illness would access the NDIS

• As at 30 September 2019 - 27,864 people with primary psychosocial disability were found eligible nationally, with 8,788 being in NSW

• Average package cost for people with primary psychosocial disability in NSW is around $75,000

• Current average plan utilisation for people with primary psychosocial disability in NSW is 64%

• There are lots of success stories
What does the data tell us?

Quarterly breakdown by eligibility status

- **Eligible**
- **Ineligible**

Source: NSW Health NDIS linked dataset – to 30 June 2019
General health and NDIS interface – latest developments

Tune Review
• Report published 20 January. Makes 29 recommendations to improve the participant experience, including delivery of the new NDIS Participant Service Guarantee.

National Hospital Discharge Delay Action Plan
• Focus on reducing hospital stays of NDIS participants when they clinically no longer need to remain in hospital.

Question
➢ How will NDIS address providing participant’s with access to appropriate housing/accommodation?
General health and NDIS interface – latest developments

NDIA funding for disability-related health supports
• Additional supports available to purchase using NDIS funding, from 1 October 2019.

Question

- Can you clarify when the NDIS funds psychological therapies and the interface with Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) psychological services?

Exceptionally Complex Support Needs Program
• Part of the Complex Support Needs Pathway for participants with disability who have other challenges impacting on their lives.
• Growing sector capability to support participants with exceptionally complex support needs.
Mental Health and NDIS interface - recent changes

In 2018 Mental Health Australia consultations found a number of issues and NDIA implemented some changes in response, including:

**Streamlined access process**
- Prospective participants can be supported to make a Verbal Access Request (VAR) instead of an Access Request form (ARF)

**New evidence of psychosocial disability form**
- Launched October 2019 and available on the NDIS website

**Independent Assessment Pilot and its extension**
- Originally for people with autism, intellectual disability and psychosocial disability, now available for all disability types in Nepean Blue Mountains
- Plans to roll it out across the country
Reforms for NDIS and psychosocial disability

9 October 2019, the Disability Reform Council (DRC) approved a range of reforms around the NDIS and psychosocial disability.

- Six reform areas
- Reforms are being developed in conjunction with state and territory governments – NSW is very involved
- Still early days and will be able to report back more in time
1. Access for people with psychosocial disability

- Tune Review Recommendation 8 to amend the NDIS legislation to “provide clearer guidance for the NDIA in considering whether a psychosocial impairment is permanent, recognising that some conditions may be episodic or fluctuating”.

**Question**

- How do you match the recovery model with NDIA’s access criteria?

2 & 3. Linkages and referrals and outreach

- Improving linkage and referrals for those found ineligible
- Outreach for hard to reach groups

**Questions**

- Only 8,788 people in NSW with psychosocial disability were accessing NDIS funding. What is Health doing to help more people with priority of access?
4 & 5. Recovery and episodic approaches

- Embedding a recovery approach, including through development of a psychosocial disability recovery framework and introduction of a new psychosocial recovery coach
- Responding to the episodic needs of participants

Question

- How is the NDIS looking at ways to be more responsive to people’s changing support needs which may increase or decrease depending on their mental health?

6. Collaborative practice

- Improving information sharing and collaborative practice between the NDIS and other services, including public mental health services
IDMH and NDIS interface

- More than 125,000 people in NSW with intellectual disability, with up to 40% also living with mental illness
- 3% mental health service users in NSW have an intellectual disability
- Most people with intellectual disability and mental health conditions are under the age of 19 years, and live in regional or outer metropolitan areas
- People with intellectual disability experience mental health admissions which are twice as long and cost twice as much; and they present twice as often to emergency departments
IDMH and NDIS interface – NSW priorities

- NDIS Residual Functions $4.1m per annum time limited until June 2021

- Mental Health reform funding of $1.1 million per annum recurrent:
  - Adult State-wide Tertiary IDMH service (Sydney LHD)
  - Child and Adolescent Tertiary IDMH service (SCHN)

- 3DN funded to produce research, practical tools and resources
Useful websites

- **NDIS website:**
  - Mental Health and NDIS – a range of information and resources on the NDIS and mental health
  - NDIS data – insights and information about how the NDIS is operating across the country
- **NDIS Quality & Safety Commission** - independent agency established to improve the quality and safety of NDIS supports and services
- **Reimagine today** - online resource to support people living with mental health conditions to better understand the NDIS
- **Project Embark** – useful resources and information to support people experiencing homelessness and psychosocial disability to access the NDIS.
Useful documents

- 2019 review of the NDIS Act and the new NDIS Participant Service Guarantee (Tune Review)
- Communiques from the Disability Reform Council
- Implementation of the NDIS and the provision of disability services in NSW, NSW Legislative Council, Health and Community Services Committee, 2018
- The provision of services under the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities related to a mental health condition, Federal Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS, 2017.
Useful contacts

Ministry of Health

National Disability Insurance Agency

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

Commonwealth Ombudsman

NSW Fair Trading

Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

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