



**Media release
21/08/2020**

NDIS Price Guide changes force closure of Community Support Programs

Following the latest release of the *NDIS Price Guide* by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), Capital Region Community Services (CRCS) in the ACT has decided it is not financially possible to continue providing its NDIS Groups/Course Support Programs and will be indefinitely suspending those programs, effective from 22 August, 2020.

As a result, 30 Programs, 14 employees, and up to 84 participants and their families have been affected. The Groups/Course Support Programs offer activities like dance, drama, and art groups to people with a disability.

'We regret that participants and their families will not be able to access these particular community programs through CRCS for the foreseeable future,' said Mandy Green, CEO of CRCS.

'Unfortunately, with significant changes to the *NDIS Price Guide* and the increasing complexity of support arrangements each year, we have to restructure our business and it's just not economically viable now for us to continue delivering those services.

'We tried until the 11th hour to find a way to continue providing the services but couldn't find a way to make it work.

'We've given two weeks' notice to participants and their families and carers, which is the notice period within Service Agreements, and of course we would have liked to have given more but were trying until the last possible moment to find a way to make this work,' said Ms Green.

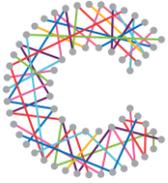
Repeated changes to the *NDIS Price Guide* and the strain it puts on disability service providers is something that concerns Alicia Payne MP, Member for Canberra and member of the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS.

'The *NDIS Price Guide* changes every year and for many disability service providers that means significant restructuring of their business to meet those requirements,' said Ms Payne.

'It's a common frustration across the sector and can take disability service providers away from the core business of supporting participants.'

The indefinite suspension of NDIS Groups/Course Support Programs will not mean CRCS is shutting down, but pivoting toward advocacy work.

'We're looking to continue with advocacy work for the disability sector and hope at some point to find a solution with government that would allow us to resume these programs,' said Ms Green.



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Ms Green said CRCS is in the process of reaching out to other service providers who may be able to help service participants' needs and are contacting participants and their families to keep them up to date as required.

CRCS has been able to redeploy or are working to redeploy eight of the affected employees. Four employees will be stood down on JobKeeper, one has found alternative employment and another has commenced parental leave.

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Available for comment:

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