

The Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme: Lessons from Implementation

Presented by:

Jennifer Smith-Merry, University of Sydney

Co-moderated by:

Christopher Gee, Institute of Policy Studies

Justin Lee, Institute of Policy Studies

Date: 13 May 2019

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm (*Registration starts at 3.45pm*)

Venue: FASS Dean's Office Seminar Room B, AS7-01-16/17/18, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

Address: 5 Arts Link, Singapore 117570 [*Parking available at carpark 15*]

Abstract:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has been hailed as a breakthrough in the moves towards an Australia which is more inclusive of people with a range of physical, neurological and psychological disabilities. The NDIS is an insurance-based scheme that creates personal budgets with designated categories in which expenditure is allowed based on an individual's needs and a government service pricing guide. This is underpinned by the values of 'choice and control' whereby individuals are encouraged to manage their own budgets. This seminar will focus on key implementation challenges which the scheme has faced as it is rolled out to over 460,000 Australians. These challenges include the coordination and support of people with extremely complex needs or situations, difficulties resulting from the transition to a market-based model of service provision, limits on inclusion of some (e.g. people with mental illness) due to the implementation of the definition of 'disability' used by the scheme, cost blow-outs where demand has been higher than expected for particular need categories, and engagement of consumers, family members and carers in the design and implementation of the scheme.

Presenters' profile:

Dr Jennifer Smith-Merry is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. Jen is Director of the Centre for Disability Research and Policy (CDRP). Jen also leads the Mental Health and Disability research in the Faculty. Jen has a PhD in policy from the University of Queensland (2005) and her academic research has focused on policy and service development, primarily in mental health and the study of adverse events. Prior to her current position she was Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Jen is lead Chief Investigator on multiple grants which aim to evaluate or develop policy and services in disability and mental health. She works closely with people with a lived experience of disability and has a strong interest in the value of lived experience in informing policy and service design. Jen has strong connections to academic, policy and service audiences in Australia and internationally. She has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Jen recently led the development of the Mind the Gap report into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and psychosocial disability. The report was passed as a motion in the Federal Senate and received significant media and policy attention. .

Christopher Gee is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies where he leads the Governance and Economy Department. He has published several papers on retirement financing, strengthening old-age income support and managing healthcare costs for an ageing population. Christopher was previously in investment banking, leading equity research teams covering Singapore and Malaysia, and the Asian real estate sector. He has a BA (Law) from the University of Nottingham and holds the CFA charter. Christopher holds a joint

appointment with the National University of Singapore's Department of Real Estate and the Institute of Real Estate Studies, and is a non-executive director of CapitaLand Retail China Trust, a Singapore-listed real estate investment trust with a portfolio of shopping malls in China. Christopher's research interests include policy implications and outcomes arising from Singapore's demographic trends, in particular those aspects relating to housing, healthcare and retirement adequacy.

Dr Justin Lee is a Senior Research Fellow in the Society and Culture Department at the Institute of Policy Studies. He has substantive interests in issues relating to disadvantaged populations, and has done research on the social inclusion of people with disabilities, proper end-of-life planning for vulnerable seniors and the re-integration of ex-offenders. He is also interested in the non-profit sector at large, and has been paying keen attention to the role and strengths of new and untapped resources like game designers, community artists and other social innovators. In his previous position as Senior Research Fellow at the National Council of Social Service, Justin led needs-assessment projects, helped design programmes and conducted evaluation studies in partnership with various Voluntary Welfare Organisations. He is also Chairman of ArtsWok Collaborative, a non-profit organisation, which seeks to connect communities by harnessing the power of the arts to create dialogue, invite social participation and build bridges across difference.

[Register here](#)

Registration closes on Thursday, 2 May 2019.

For enquiries, please contact [Ms Jess Tan](#)