

# Autism Federal Election Scorecard

This document is a summary of the major political parties' responses to the Australian Autism Alliance priorities, outlined in its *Change 4 Autism 2019 Federal Election Manifesto*.

Input for the scorecard has been taken from the responses by the major parties and publically available information. Policies included target disability more broadly, with **autism-specific commitments in bold**.

We have also included some policies that have been announced previously by the government and are not commitments. This has been done on the basis of fairly and accurately reporting the policy positions of the parties, in relation to our priorities, utilising the information provided to us by the parties.

The Alliance will continue to advocate for Australian autistic people and their families after the election on 18 May, to ensure these commitments are delivered by the Commonwealth Government.



AUSTRALIAN  
Autism Alliance



Change  
**4**  
Autism

# Autism Federal Election Scorecard

	LIBERAL/NATIONAL	LABOR	GREENS
<b>Urgent action to eliminate NDIS barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$45 million over three years to establish a national disability information gateway</li> <li>• \$20 million to expand the NDIS Community Connectors Program to support disadvantaged groups navigate the NDIS</li> <li>• New NDIS Participant Service Guarantee to set timeframes across the whole planning process, with an additional \$2 million to monitor the Guarantee</li> <li>• New NDIS participant planning pathways with a single point of contact.</li> <li>• Promote longer term plans of up to 3 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will legislate an NDIS Future Fund where NDIS underspends will be quarantined for NDIS use only, including the \$1.6 billion underspend forecasted in 2019-20</li> <li>• Lift the staffing cap on the NDIS</li> <li>• Legislate Key Performance Indicators for the NDIA to ensure timely processes and decisions, including transparent reporting</li> <li>• Ensure people have a consistent point of contact at the NDIA</li> <li>• NDIA to commission an independent assessment of consistency and equity</li> <li>• Establish a special taskforce to clear the review backlog</li> <li>• Reinstate a National Carers Strategy and \$66 million for short term accommodation from July 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the NDIS is fully funded, transparent, consultative and accountable</li> <li>• Provide adequate staff training and remove staffing caps</li> <li>• Improve IT systems and interfaces for participants and service providers</li> <li>• Guarantee free or low-cost access to all essential community services such as disability services.</li> </ul>
<b>Autism-specific NDIS barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established Autism Advisory Group (not election commitment, established 2018).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership to improve the pathway into the NDIS for people with autism and neurodevelopmental disability, and make sure scheme eligibility criteria are clear, transparent and accessible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support clear, accessible eligibility criteria</li> <li>• Support dedicated Autism and Neurodevelopmental Stream.</li> </ul>

	LIBERAL/NATIONAL	LABOR	GREENS
<b>Improve workforce capability and markets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$45.6 million over three years through the NDIS Jobs and Market Fund to support the growth of the NDIS provider market <i>(not election commitment, announced 2018)</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the Jobs and Market Fund and will work with people with disability and the sector to make sure it is implemented.</li> <li>\$40 million for local NDIS workforce trials to sustainably grow and maintain a skilled NDIS workforce.</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive national NDIS workforce strategy.</li> <li>Increase access to TAFE with 20,000 places for people studying skills to work in the NDIS and aged care.</li> </ul>	No response
<b>A National Autism Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a new National Disability Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Develop a National Autism Strategy in partnership with people with autism, families, advocates, support workers and providers</b></li> <li>Develop a new National Disability Strategy that will set targets for employment, education, housing, transport, justice, health and reducing the number of young people in nursing homes.</li> <li>Seek agreement with states to a new National Disability Agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Support call for National Autism Strategy</b></li> <li>Establish Office of Disability Strategy to monitor the National Disability Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment and diagnosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Work closely with stakeholders to determine implementation of the Autism CRC assessment and diagnostic guidelines.</b></li> </ul>	No response	No response

	LIBERAL/NATIONAL	LABOR	GREENS
<b>Education</b>	No response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra \$300 million to support students with disability at school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$400 million for universities to upskill teachers in inclusive education.</li> <li>Develop new national standard of inclusive education.</li> </ul>
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a 7% employment target for people with disability across the Australian Public Service by 2025.</li> <li><b>\$2 million to support people with autism to find and keep a job, including a \$1.5 million national expansion of the Dandelion Program and \$500,000 for initiatives to encourage employers to become autism-confident.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a 6% employment target for people with disability across the Australian Public Service by 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a 15% employment target for people with disability across the Australian Public Service by 2030.</li> <li>\$9.7 million for workplace adjustments for new APS employees with a disability.</li> </ul>
<b>Mental Health</b>	No response	No response	No response
<b>Healthcare</b>	No response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$9.5 million to improve healthcare for people with intellectual disability in 10 Primary Health Networks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$55.7 million over 4 years to improve access to healthcare to people with an intellectual disability by enhancing the capacity of GPs through Primary Health Networks.</li> <li>\$8 million over 3 years to enhance the medical and nursing school curriculum in relation to intellectual and cognitive disability.</li> </ul>

	LIBERAL/NATIONAL	LABOR	GREENS
<b>'Autism Friendly' spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10.5 million in grants for initiatives to help build inclusive communities (<i>not an election commitment, announced 2019</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4 million for audio description at the ABC and SBS</li> <li>\$2 million for inclusive publishing</li> <li>\$1 million to help more athletes attend the next Special Olympics Junior and National Games and \$1 million so RecLink can expand AAA Play.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1 billion to improve accessibility of existing public places and infrastructure</li> <li>\$400 million for accessible public transport</li> <li>Construct 500,000 fully accessible public and community homes</li> <li>\$5 million to increase access to nature and tourism activities for people with disability</li> <li>\$1.1 million over four years for a dedicated online platform within the disability community</li> <li>Invest \$58 million over four years to advance captioning, audio description, relay and translation services, and access to Auslan, as well as pursuing the necessary regulatory amendments</li> <li>\$3.5 million over four years to establish a National Disability Telecommunications Service.</li> </ul>
<b>Women and girls</b>	No response	No response	No response
<b>Royal Commission into violence, abuse and neglect of people with a disability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established the Royal Commission in 2019 with funding of \$527.9 million over five years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported establishment of a Royal Commission.</li> <li>Will amend the Terms of Reference to include financial redress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported establishment of a Royal Commission.</li> <li>Support calls for revised Terms of Reference addressing financial redress.</li> </ul>
<b>Disability Advocacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform the national delivery of advocacy services for people with disability from 1 July 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10 million into Disability Representative Organisation advocacy over the next four years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$11.3 million to increase disability advocacy funding.</li> </ul>