



**International Initiative for  
Disability Leadership**

## **Social Care Reform Learning from Australia – three-part webinar series**

### **Part one**

**“The collective and inclusive leadership that led to the creation and initial design of Australia’s National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)”**

**9am** Welcome and background to the event and England’s membership of IIDL- Clenton Farquharson MBE, Chair of the Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Partnership England

**9.05am** Introduction to the International Initiative for Disability Leadership (IIDL) and overview of this session/introduction of format and speakers – Eddie Bartnik, International Lead (IIDL)

**9.10am** NDIS context and overall collective strategy- Professor Bruce Bonyhady AO

**9.30am** The Every Australian Counts Campaign - Kirsten Deane OAM

**9.50am** the Actuarial and Productivity Commission perspective - John Walsh AM

**10.10am** Reflection on the process and framing this for England - Dr Sam Bennett

**10.15** Short break

**10.20am** Question and Answer session

**10.55am** Thanks and next sessions - Caroline Speirs

**11am** Close

## Speaker biographies

**Clenton Farquharson, MBE**, is Chair of the Think Local Act Personal partnership board. Clenton is also a member of the NHS Assembly, set up to oversee the NHS Ten Year Plan, the current chair of Quality Matters, a trustee of the Race Equality Foundation, ambassador for Disability Rights UK. He is a director of Community Navigator Services CIC, and a Skills for Care Ambassador. He works as consultant, auditor, trainer, and coach on inclusion, equality and disability, and was named in Disability News Services' list of influential disabled people. In his spare time, he supports Birmingham City football club.

**Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM** is a disability reformer, economist, one of the key architects of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and was the inaugural Chair of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) from 2013 to 2016. Professor Bonyhady began his career in the Australian Treasury and also worked in economic consulting, funds management and insurance in Australia and the UK, before becoming a non-executive director. His non-executive roles include President of Philanthropy Australia (2006-13). Professor Bonyhady is the father of three adult sons, two of whom have disabilities and in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours, he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for services to people with disabilities, their families and carers, and to the community as a contributor to a range of charitable organisations.

**Kirsten Deane OAM** is the Campaign Director of Every Australian Counts, the campaign for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. She also serves as Executive Director of the National Disability and Carer Alliance, the organisation which sits behind Every Australian Counts. Kirsten's previous roles include National Manager of Communications and Engagement at the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, and she has served as both Co-Chair and Deputy Chair of the National People with Disability and Carer Council. She has also been a long-term board member of both Down Syndrome Australia and Down Syndrome Victoria. A former journalist turned academic, Kirsten has three children and, as a result, has excellent conflict mediation skills.

**Professor John Walsh AM** is one of Australia's leading actuaries and has served on the NDIA Board since the establishment of the NDIS in 2013 and was the Principal Member of the Independent Advisory Council from April 2019 to June 2020. John has personal experience of disability, having lived with quadriplegia following a rugby league accident in his early twenties. He is credited with being one of the most passionate advocates of the world-leading insurance scheme, and a significant contributor to its original guiding principles as an Associate Commissioner to the Productivity Commission in its inquiry into long-term care and support for people with disability in 2011.

**Dr Sam Bennett** had a fifteen year career working in disability and health reforms in the UK in service delivery roles, in the voluntary sector and in national government

policy and strategy leadership roles prior to joining the Australian National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in 2018. In Sam's immediate past role he was responsible for leading ground-breaking national programs to improve and better integrate services for people with complex needs across the health and disability interface. Sam now brings his considerable experience and expertise in individualised funding program design and implementation to the NDIA's Strategic Advice, Research and Inclusion Division where he is responsible for a range of programs, including Information, Linkages and Capacity Building, the National Community Connectors Program rollout, and the implementation of the NDIA's first Research Strategy.