

# TOWARD THE HORIZON TRIBUNALS OF THE FUTURE

7 - 8 June 2018 | QT Canberra, ACT

## **Brave New World – Towards Smooth Running of the National Disability Insurance Scheme** *Sue Salthouse, Disability Advocate*

Sue's presentation will draw on the ACT experience as an exemplar, to look at the operation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in that jurisdiction from the viewpoint of consumers. The ACT experience is useful because the Territory can be viewed as a single entity which has been 'fully rolled out' since (officially) 1 July 2017. The current shortcomings of the Scheme, as experienced in the ACT, can be used as predictors of where consumers' problems will lie, post 2020, when the scheme is fully rolled out Australia-wide.

There is a human rights imperative which dictated that the current 'underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient' disability support system urgently needed reform. An additional urgency is that medical interventions have enabled many children with disabilities to survive into their own old age, with many still being cared for by parents in their 80's and 90's.

Sue will extrapolate from the current ACT challenges, to identify where problems are likely to arise:— from shortfalls in the size and skillset of the National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) workforce; ongoing difficulties managing interfaces, particularly between Health systems and the NDIS as definitions of eligible chronic disease change, the Aged care system and the NDIS as more and more Participants survive into the 50-year old age bracket and above; ongoing disconnections between Local Area Coordinator (LAC) organisations and the Agency, unresolved border issues, and increased pressure on public and social housing as more Participants aspire to 'living in the community.