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Government feeling good about NDIS scheme

THE Federal Government is feeling good about the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), despite criticism from local providers as to its confusing and bureaucratic nature.

The scheme has begun its roll out to Tumut residents and those in the Murrumbidgee District, with Assistant Minister for Disability Services Jane Prentice saying it will improve the lives of people with disability while generating hundreds of local jobs.

Ms Prentice said it was an exciting time for the local community.

"From July 1, people with disability in Murrumbidgee will join more than 36,000 other people in New South Wales who are accessing the NDIS and getting the supports and services they need to live an ordinary life," Ms Prentice said.

"The NDIS will provide people with disability with reasonable and necessary supports, such as personal care, therapy services and equipment, to help them achieve their

goals, increase their independence and be more involved in their community."

The Murrumbidgee district, which incorporates Tumut, spans the local government areas of Albury, Boorowa, Cootamundra, Griffith, Hay, Temora, Wagga and surrounds.

According to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Market Position Statement for New South Wales, the number of people receiving disability support in the Murrumbidgee area is forecast to grow from 3800 to 6000 in 2019.

Support service Interreach in partnership with Social Futures will deliver Local Area Coordination (LAC) services in the Murrumbidgee district.

LAC services focus on participant capacity building, including plan development, implementation and review.

"While people living with disabilities will be the primary beneficiaries, the NDIS will also deliver a social, economic and jobs dividend for the district," Mrs Prentice said.

"The NDIS will gener-

ate 900 new jobs in the Murrumbidgee district over coming years and inject an additional \$140 million into the local economy."

The NDIS is expected to boost the New South Wales economy by \$3.4 billion and bring more than 20,000 new jobs in disability services to the state by 2019.

The NDIS is expected to transform the lives of 142,000 people in NSW with disability, as well as their families, carers and communities over the next three years.

In NSW, the NDIS is being rolled out by district. When the NDIS commences in a district, people currently receiving supports through the New South Wales Government specialist disability services and Commonwealth disability programs will be moving first, in line with the agreements made by governments.

The NDIS is available to people under the age of 65 with permanent and significant disability. Murrumbidgee residents are encouraged to visit the NDIS website www.ndis.gov.au to find out how.

— Frances Vinall