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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The Autism Association of WA welcomes State Government Preparation for the NDIS announced today**

The Autism Association of Western Australia welcomes the announcement today by the Hon. Helen Morton, MLC, Minister for Disability Service, to expand accommodation services in the non-government sector in preparation for the launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Western Australia in July 2014.

Joan McKenna Kerr, Chief Executive Officer, said "we applaud the decision to give people with disabilities greater choice and control over the services they receive through the expansion of services available in the Non-Government Sector".

"The State Government announcement today recognises the need for people with disabilities and their families to have greater choice in the services they receive. It also recognises the work of the NGO sector in Western Australia in delivering services of a very high quality", she said.

With 83% of specialist disability accommodation services already delivered by non-government organisations in WA, the sector is well placed to support this initiative in preparation for transition to the NDIS launch next year.

The Autism Association congratulates the State Government for this proactive and positive commitment in preparing Western Australia for these significant disability reforms that place the person with a disability at the centre of all planning and decision making.

"We would like to acknowledge in this initiative the very strong commitment of the State Government to work in partnership with the disability sector to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families", Mrs McKenna Kerr said.

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## **ABOUT THE AUTISM ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)**

**The Autism Association of Western Australia is the largest specialist lifespan organisation providing services to people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in Australia. The Autism Association services are based on best practice and the most up to date research in the field. The Autism Association has well established links both nationally and internationally. Services include: early intervention; clinical services; school-age support; family support; respite; community options support; employment services; shared-living; professional development services; state-wide advisory and consultancy service.**