

## MEDIA RELEASE

# **Ai-Media Welcomes PM's Reform Commitment at National Disability Awards**

23 November 2011

Ai-Media welcomes Prime Minister Julia Gillard's unequivocal commitment to establish a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by mid-2013 in her speech at the National Disability Awards in Canberra last night.

"This rock solid commitment from the highest level of the Government is exactly what people were looking for," said Ai-Media CEO, Tony Abrahams.

The PM's statement followed the Coalition's support earlier in the day for the NDIS to be the core business of government.

"Bipartisan political support for the NDIS gives people with disability, their families and carers, and the service sector confidence to plan for the long-term," Mr Abrahams added, "It is the only way to ensure this critical social and economic reform is achieved. This parliament has risen to the challenge."

The PM last night also committed her Government to implementing the NDIS one year ahead of the timetable proposed by the Productivity Commission in its landmark report on disability reform.

Ai-Media was one of three finalists for the National Disability Awards, Business Category, which was won by Alcoa. Ai-Media was recognised for its services to deaf and hearing impaired people through its television captioning services and its unique, internet-based innovation, Ai-Live™, delivering real-time captioning in schools, tertiary education, and in the workplace.

Over 400 nominations were received for the 2011 National Disability Awards, across 8 categories.

Ai-Media is working to make Ai-Live™ available nationally in 2012.

The Australian Human Rights Commission earlier this month announced Ai-Media as a finalist in its Human Rights Awards for Business, based on its Ai-Live@Work service which enables people with deafness or hearing loss to participate easily in meetings through live captioning on laptops or tablets, and providing transcripts for all attendees.

The Award recognises organisations that have improved access to employment, or created increased employment opportunities for people with disability. Ai-Live@Work is available through the Federal Government's Employment Assistance Fund.

Further information: Tony Abrahams - 0405 369 652

About Ai-Media:

Ai-Media is a commercially focused social enterprise founded in 2003 and dedicated to ending the experience of social, educational and vocational exclusion that people with disability face.

Ai-Media provides television captioning services.

In 2010, Ai-Media launched Ai-Live™, a breakthrough broadband-based captioning service that enables deaf and hearing impaired students to participate easily in mainstream classrooms. Ai-Live is now available in the workplace and tertiary education institutions to assist people with disabilities to learn and communicate.

More information: [www.ai-media.tv](http://www.ai-media.tv) and [www.ai-live.com](http://www.ai-live.com)