

MEDIA RELEASE

Ai-Media Welcomes Week of Disability and Education Reform

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Education technology and disability services innovator, Ai-Media, has welcomed tabling of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the related Gonski Schools Funding Reform legislation in the Australian Parliament this week, ahead of the International Day of People with Disability on December 3.

"The NDIS and Gonski reforms are fundamental building blocks of the future competitiveness, productivity and fairness of the Australian economy," Ai-Media CEO Tony Abrahams said.

"Intelligent, creative and inspiring people are currently being shut out of economic and social life, simply because they have, or are caring for someone with, a disability."

Ai-Media Co-Founder, Alex Jones said, "Every Australian child should have access to quality educational opportunities. These reforms are critical to achieving that goal."

Mr Abrahams added: "Ai-Media congratulates the Government for prioritising these reforms, and for its genuine and effective consultation with the community to produce an NDIS bill that promises meaningful choice and opportunity for all. The Gonski reforms complement the NDIS by ensuring students with additional needs are funded appropriately - wherever they go to school - and by empowering those with the best understanding of the particular needs of students to guide how those funds are invested."

Ai-Media has publicly advocated for an NDIS, and individualised funding, since 2008, and its submissions to the NDIS and Gonski consultations are available on its website.

"We support a short Senate inquiry for community comment on the NDIS legislation that would facilitate its passage by March 2013," Mr Abrahams said.

"It would be a positive testament to, and legacy of, this hung Parliament to pass landmark education and disability opportunity legislation that has enjoyed the support and the priority of all political parties."

Further information: Tony Abrahams, Ai-Media CEO – 0405 369 652

About Ai-Media

Ai-Media is an education and technology innovator founded in 2003 and dedicated to ending the social, educational and vocational exclusion that people with disability face. Ai-Media provides television captioning and web accessibility services, as well as its flagship Ai-Live service (supported by Commercialisation Australia) that provides live accurate captioning and transcripts to iPads, tablets and laptops – beneficial for students with hearing impairment, autism, cerebral palsy, and those developing literacy. Ai-Media is an approved provider of ICT Accessibility and Audiovisual & Theatre services to the Australian Government to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.0 "A" and "AA" standards.

More information: www.ai-media.tv and www.ai-live.com

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