Thanks very much Elizabeth. I want to welcome you all to Melbourne. For all of those we say that it always rains in Melbourne. This is the sort of sunshine which we get so you're all. I hope you get the chance to get out into it at some point. I'd like to acknowledge that we meet on the Wurundjeri people.

I pay my respects to elders past and present a payment respects to any elders in the room as well. It's been a big week. In a big year. You know, as we get to the end of the year, we often hear these uh statements. Well that was a big year.

I think. This year is profile of these cliches survive because indeed has been a big year. I won't recap all of it, but I will go to the last week that we've had. What I thought I might do and I say acknowledge all the people online, too. You just have to take my word for the weather.

Um, I want to go to my interpretation of what just happened in the last week and we can then use more of the time that we would traditionally allocate for politics and speaking just to engage and hear some of your questions and observations. If that's all right with you.

There’s been Bruce and Lisa and they've been plenty of speakers Lorrie about the review and you'll all be poring through that very important document. I just want to Give you my context on what just happened. For a year, we've had the review. When we were elected, the last election, I had the privilege of being appointed minister for the NDIS.

I said that we wanted to rebuild trust. One of the ways we've rebuilt trust is fixing up some of the outstanding issues that you should be fixed. We haven't fixed them all but there are a lot better, you know. There's been seven thousand cases of the AAT resolved. And demanded.

The AAT is down by a third, which means less trauma. Less conflict. We've reduced the waiting time for people on the NDI. So we medically fit for discharge and hospitals from 160 days, waiting between discharge and actually being found somewhere to live down to 26 days. Now, that's an average.

And there's still people not, but that's good. Trust we said we would do some of these what seemed to be attractable problems. I also said that we would are Give you a new leadership in the in the NDIA and we've done that. And the senior leadership I think are remarkable curtain rebecca and the others.

And we've got more resources for the NDIA. No longer is at the sort of unloved child of federal government. More people more training, bulking it up to do the word which, you know, needs to be done. We also said, we would do. I also said I'd start going after, uh, criminal and fraudulent and shonkey behaviour and we are A billion dollars has been a payments.

Have been investigated in the last 12 months, there's now 60 criminal prosecutions underway. It was about 3 when we came to power But a cake part of the last 18 months, journey was the review. And that started around this time last year and we wanted it done this year in 12 months.

The reviewers, as you know, remarkable work. 20 thousand hours of work. And places visited all over Australia, the voices of people disability central to a 2000 separate personal stories. Four thousand written submissions Working through disability representative organisations, a thousand people and their families spoken to. Then we got the review.

And then we've given the review to the states, because I've always had the very firm view that the federal government and the state's are partners. Not just in the NDIS but in disability. Now the week before the last week there was a little bit of kabuki role playing which drives ordinary Australians, sort of to distraction.

Some states saying, not us. Anyway, we get to national cabinet. And what happened in national cabinet was that for once well, not just for once, but Not as often as it happened. I should happen. But, you know, Politics work. And what we did is get a commitment from the states and territories that they are a renewed commitment.

They are partners. And what they said was that at the moment? Courtesy of previous administrations of the government. The state contribution to the ndias is at four percent per year growth. So they make their original contribution and grows four percent each year, capped which meant that if the scheme was going faster than 4 percent, the Commonwealth was on the hook for the rest.

The states have now. Agree agreed to increase their contributions to 8 percent per year. This is actually billions of dollars of State saying we want to be part of the NDIS. Very significant development return. The federal government's given piping overdue commitments to help or the hospital systems a trajectory over the next 10 years to get to 45 percent contribution of, so the scale of hospital funding so that positive And there was a no worse off guarantee, given to states about GST, share for the next three years.

So it was a grand, bargain. The crucially, and this is context. For you for me. And most importantly for people on the scheme of people you've worked with and the people who work for you. Disability was safe to stage in the national discussion and discourse. We always do best in disability when we're not in the margins.

Well, we're not at the bottom of the media release when we're not at the kids' table of public policy discussion, but we were the main game is And this is the context I want to talk to you about. The review is proposed. What I would call NDIS Mark 2.

Now, I can take it through each individual chapter, but you can do that. And maybe a question answer will go to some of the specifics. But essentially. On Wednesday, national cabinet. Also said, Then we would build foundational supports. The new nomenclature for the artist formerly known as tier two.

The proposition that. The NDIS itself, cannot be the only lifeboat in the ocean. We all know the NDIS is changing lives. You should know because you're helping change those lives. We know that the world in disability in Australia is fundamentally very different to 10 years ago when there wasn't an NDIS.

And as I've said in the past and I will say every moment, Got in the future service providers. And the NDS. And a lot of the people who were delivering services before 10 years ago you have been crucial to the success of the scheme. No other sector of the Australian economy changed its whole business model.

If you are any other sector that of demand at a golden parachute or golden handcuff, you name it. But you thought this was in the best interest of Australians with disability, that's why admire Disability services. Because you looked at the best interest of people and you said, okay, let's go that direction.

But this is the context. Now, in the last 10 years whilst you've been changing lives. Making incredible difference. We know that the scheme has not been a consistent experience. We know that. There are equity issues in terms of accessing the scheme. Blaming is a shorthand description for that. If you are, A wealthy.

Professional. Inner city dwelling family, your life's not easy. But I'll tell you what you're better at working the scheme than people who don't have necessarily those advantages and we need to make the scheme equitable. You know, that the scheme Has not been sufficiently transparent. And you know that they've been inconsistent results, you know these things?

You've told me that for years You know, you've told me that the scheme can treat people with disability. Ah, In a very stressful and traumatic way, you know this you've told me So, I think that The Wednesday, announcement of national cabinet. And then, the Thursday review means that this does qualify to have been a big week in a big year.

But the context of this debate, Is what in our busy lives and it's not always easy to take time to stop and think. Sometimes, for most of the time, I shouldn't speak for all of you, but I guess you're the same as me. The urgent can crowd out the important.

And we don't always get time to Step back, step up. Look from the bird's eye view. What's actually going on. And the context this week is that. The scheme had been drifting off course and it was in danger of being the only lifeboat in the ocean. And, you know, this to be true.

You know that there have been no thought giving about the development of workforce. We have this whole world of unregistered providers, many of them are doing a great job, but the idea you have two systems in one, Not ultimately sustainable. Not accountable, not transparent. And so, the context is that This way, I think has been as big a week in the history of Australians with disability in this country as any we've had in the last decade.

I mean, I take nothing away from the disability royal commission, which my colleague Amanda rich work, and all the states, and various departments we respond on. They said that's been a big event. I acknowledge But this has been a big week. A long time coming. The review in my opinion, reflects.

What the review had heard from you? And from thousands of people disability their families That hasn't been enough thought given to the accountability, the scheme. We want to make the scheme. True to its original intent. And perhaps it has always going to be this point of reckoning. Perhaps was inevitable when we bulked up something, which is world leading, that it was always going to need.

The review. The reboot. The mark 2 version. And we have 10 years now of data, or a blessings of experience. So, perhaps some of the things that are proposed in the review, A sort of just the inevitable evolution. Of a dynamic unique generous, world leading scheme. But the context is, there is now political buying

Who really matter with the NDIS are people with disability and their families. The politics is always important. And the fact that the Australian taxpayers generously support, the scheme is nothing to take for granted. It shows that the generosity if you would have talked to Australians, generally, they would think that the NDIS along with Medicare and my opinion are probably about the two best purposes.

You could put your taxes to work for. But it's important to maintain that social licence. So, At the end of a big week. There is a long way to go. In our life isn't a one day. It's the journey. The review is a horizon map in my opinion. It seems directions.

But there's a lot of detail to be filled in. Of a lot of co-design. We need to make sure there are no unintended consequences in the review which need to be heard and sorted. So there was no hubris or arrogance in the federal government about any of this. I am pleased for Australians with disability.

I am pleased for you. What we managed to do and I don't think it was inevitable. We would get this outcome. Is I think that we've rebuilt the social licence and we have the potential to rebuild the social licence we've engaged every government in Australia. Both sides the both sides of politics.

And they're interested. And I actually want the scheme to succeed. A year ago and two years ago, perhaps, some people would say the way to reform the scheme as to cap it. The brutalize it to ration it. But that would be putting the scheme in the two, hard bars going to be putting people disability.

In the two hard basket. I guess there's another path which some would say. Don't change anything. Well, that is actually the lazy path. That will also, Put this game in the two hard basket that puts people with disability in the two hard basket. It would be wilfully negligent. To close their eyes.

Put our hands over our ears and refuse to look at how we can make the skin better. So this review and what we do and the national cabinet Has been literally, in my opinion. A pivot point. For people with disability and for the NDIS. The fact that the states, And they were doing it a bit, but the fact has been renewed attention and we've had the debate and that's a good thing.

The fact that every premier in Australia, And the federal government. Having engaged constructively and said, all right. Not quite sure. Like all this foundational supports means and the fine print but we get the theory. And this is the beauty of the review. The review, says we actually get and I know you all know this.

We get that the scheme growing at 16 percent, That there are some people having a lend of this game. But what we managed to secure this year is a commitment to an eight percent target. To be a lot of other people, a lot of other parts of policy in Australia saying, wouldn't mind that eight percent target every year Maintenance is going to be more jobs next year than the word they say.

It's going to mean the more people on the scheme next year than there were this year. And for any number of years to come, that is a win. And also has the states and the federal government saying if we're going to say some money from not spending as much.

Which we act frankly didn't need to spend. We've got the deal. That some of that will be reinvested. In the world outside the NDIS. See, the NDIS was never the destination. You couldn't say when we have an NDIS job done life for people with disability in the people who love them as countries.

Fine, the NDIS is a great win. And we should jealously guard it. Because the rest of the world looks at the NDIS ports, us at the main table of political public policy because it's got the funding, it's real money. Delivering, real outcomes. But it was only ever a stepping stone towards the real goal which is an inclusive Australia.

An Australia, where the rights, the human rights of people disability are respected. But also proactively supported. We won't have these foundational supports tomorrow. We don't work with people, we're going to haggle over the money, we got to make sure that it works. How do we measure it? What are we trying to achieve?

But what we have done, This way, which is actually the culmination of a lot of hard work over 10 years. But I would say since the last election Is I think we've honestly had the conversation? How do we make sure the NDIS is not the only lifeboat in the ocean.

What we want is support for people based on what they actually need. Not just offering in one scheme or nothing. A lot of work to be done, a lot of detail to be filled out. But when I think about it, This to me is the context we had a challenge, we've had a challenge looming with the scheme.

We'll this game become two top. Heavy. Would we say too hard to reform? Which is what some will keep saying about this review. Don't touch things. Or what we say we should just brutalize it. Rational cut it back. And we said neither these things. I know that there is a thirst for more detail.

What's funny about this is that I respect that, but it is us, who has to fill the detail in. And we will together. I think this is an exciting time. And I'm worried about using cliches. You might say exciting for you, bill. What does it mean for us? Does it mean more red tape?

We're still finding a half a service to make ends meet. Who are these navigators? What are we really saying about early intervention? Where will the workforce come from? How do you keep the states on the sticky paper of the commitments? I understand those questions. I think there are answers You know, 100% guarantees.

We and the NDIS are not automatically, owed anything. We must make our own future. What this review's done and I think not only recently. So but all the panellists and all of you who contributed to it. Is what we are doing. In my opinion is hopefully politician proofing, the NDIS Governments, come and go.

I want the NDIS to be sufficiently well thought of and embedded on both sides of politics within the broader community. Most importantly were people with disability. I just want to do everything I can. To make sure the NDIS has a bright future. And to make sure that disability. Generally against the political attention.

It deserves. The people of disability are not defined by their impairment. But we've made progress this week. And we work together on fleshing out the detail. We will listen to people. And I always use the word way because it's not me, or is it not you? Or it's not a particular person, it is us.

I want Australia to be the best country in the world. For the way, we include our citizens. We've disability to have fulfilling lives. I formed the view 15 years ago as a junior politician that the problem with disability in Australia was a lack of money in a lack of power.

It wasn't the disability. We now have resources unimaginable. In terms of funding, We're now back at the centre stage of political debate. Everyone's interested. And so now it really is up to us to make it work. We have the resources. We've got the political commitment. We've got by and large a lot of goodwill.

I respect anxiety. Our respect from trying to say, where do I fit it? Where does my business fit in? I have a package at long last. Where does that fit in? I respect the anxiety, but I would say in closing, Let us simply work together. To relieve that anxiety.

Because there is an immense amount of goodwill. This Christmas we can say is you're arguing with your relatives or you sometimes want to see and when you see them you then remember why you only see them at Christmas, whatever. And when you're debating politics of people, you think, haven't read a book written in the 20th century about politics.

That's live. But you can say, I believe in all honesty that when it comes to The political interest and consensus about including Australians with disability in their families. You can say The signs are better than worse. And so it's been a big week in a big year. I haven't taken you through each recommendation.

You can ask me all those questions, but I want to give you context. I think in my address I said to you sometimes we'll let the urgent crowd out important. Sometimes it's important to step back have that bird's eye view. Because of you, the NDIS exists because of many ordinary grassroots people.

Because of you in this review and many ordinary grassroots people. We've now somehow fashioned a political consensus But, the best way to sustain the NDI system to build services outside the NEIS. Whilst it does seem a sort of statement of the obvious. It's a big year. Because, That theory is the dominant theory that we don't have to slash and burn.

We don't have to punish Instead, what we do is We moderate some of the growth. We reinvest some of that. And we always ask ourselves what isn't the best interest of Australians have disability? And how do we get to an inclusive? Australia, thank you very much for what you do.