

Lobbying your local state MP to save CIDP

What is the issue?

The NSW Government wants to cut funding on June 30 this year to the Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program (CIDP). This is a valuable program which helps keep people with cognitive impairment (including intellectual disability) out of prison.

CIDP was established in October 2017 as a pilot project working out of Gosford and Penrith courts. It is funded by Justice NSW and run by Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS).

CIDP is successfully keeping over two thirds of its participants out of prison through diversionary orders. CIDP is also strongly inclusive with 26 percent of its participants being Aboriginal Australians.

The CIDP is a critically important service for people with intellectual disability, acquired brain injury and other cognitive impairments. It helps them stay out of prison, get support and move on positively with their lives.

Why do we need to lobby our local state MP?

The CIDP is funded by Justice NSW. The Attorney General, Hon. Mark Speakman heads up Justice NSW. He will make the final decision.

We know that politicians listen to other politicians so we want the Attorney General to hear from all our local state MPs. We want the Attorney General to know that there is support for this program from lots of MPs across NSW.

How to contact your local MP

Step 1. Find out who your local State MP is:

Which electorate are you in?

- If you don't know which electorate you are in you can go to <https://roll.elections.nsw.gov.au/areafinder>
- Type in your suburb or postcode.
- Then to find the name of your MP click on View District Profile.

Step 2. What is the email for your local State MP?

You can find your Local State MPs contact details [here](#).

3. Send an email to your local MP

- Write an email to your local MP, make sure the email is courteous and that you include your name and address.
- Make sure you say that you want the CIDP to be saved and funding for CIDP to be reinstated.
- You can use some of the points below or your own points and examples. It can be long or short.
- Tell your local MP that you want them to represent your concerns to the Attorney General.
- **Request that your MP writes to the Attorney General and asks that the Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program (CIDP) be saved and the funding for the program to be immediately reinstated.**

What you can say in your email:

- I am concerned that the NSW Government is planning to cut funding to the Cognitive Impairment Diversion Program (CIDP).
- This is a valuable program which helps people with intellectual disability, acquired brain injury and other cognitive impairments stay out of prison, get support and move on positively with their lives.
- CIDP is successfully keeping over two thirds of its participants out of prison through diversionary orders.
- CIDP is also enabling participants to get the funding and supports they are entitled to through the NDIS to live better, healthier and safer lives.
- CIDP is strongly inclusive, with 26 percent of its participants being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- With COVID-19 is it more important than ever that this program is retained, as the pandemic presents numerous challenges for people with intellectual disability, such as understanding the restrictions placed on their movements.
- I join with the many eminent Australians who have signed the Open Letter to ask you to urgently reinstate funding for this critically important program.
- Thank you and I look forward to your reply.
- Please write to the Attorney General and represent my request that the CIDP be saved and funding urgently reinstated.

We would love to know how you go. Please send us the response your MP receives from the Attorney General. Send to advocacy@cid.org.au