



ACT
Government
Health

THE EFFICACY OF A SPECIALIST NDIS SOCIAL WORK ROLE IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

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Introduction

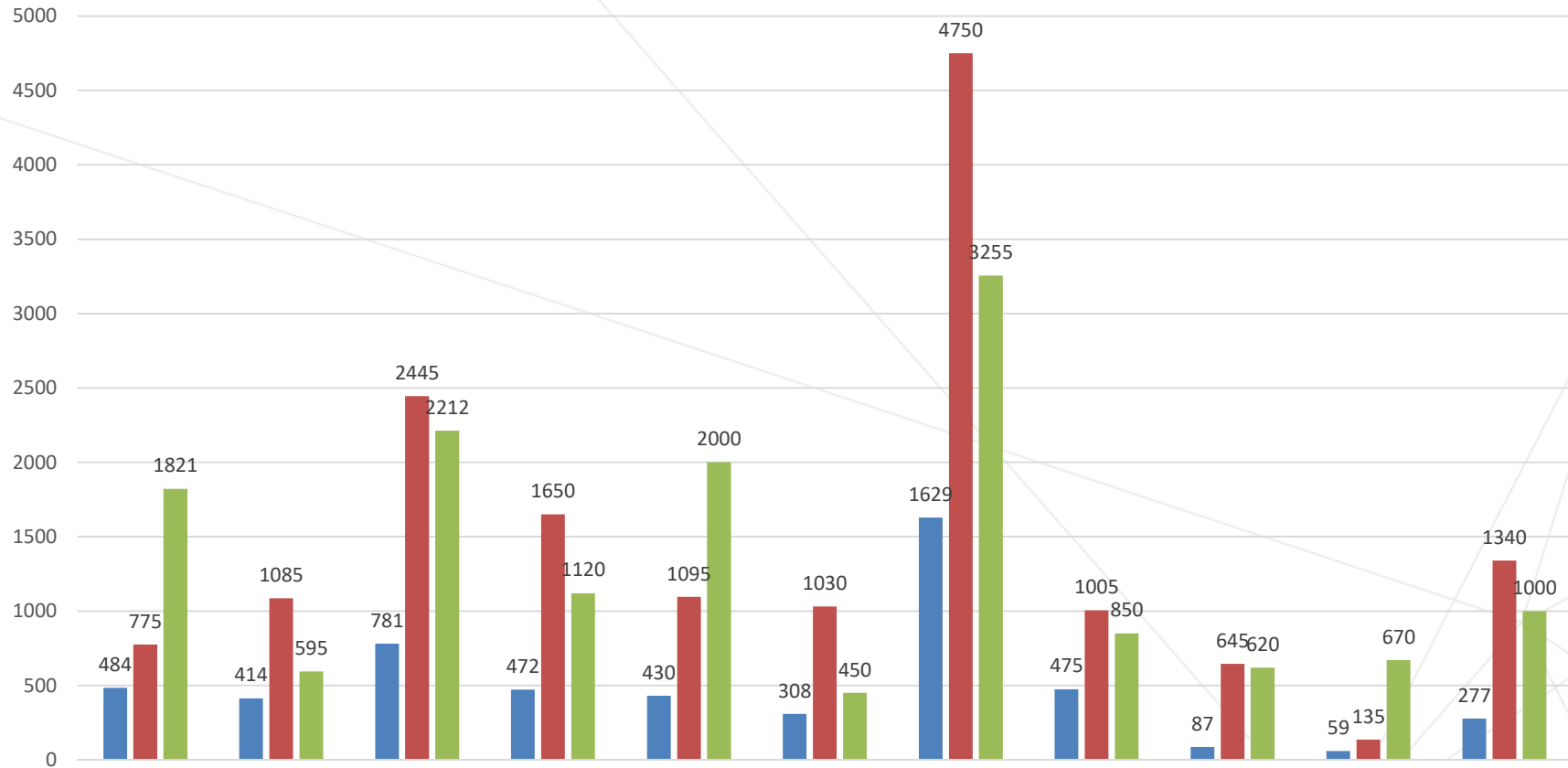
- Why we needed a specialist NDIS Social Worker at the Canberra Hospital
- What the NDIS Social Work Lead position included.
- Significant outcomes from the pilot position.
- Why a Social Worker?

Baseline Analysis for the Pilot Position

- Canberra Hospital has a significant number of long stay NDIS patients.
- Acute hospital beds blocked by NDIS patients for up to 6 years.
- Complex NDIS patients unable to discharge due to the high level disability care needs and requiring specialised disability accommodation.
- Poor quality of life for these patients.
- Substantial social work contact hours per NDIS patient.
- Decreased job satisfaction reported by social workers.

Snapshot May 2017

NDIS Clients Length of Stay and Social Work Units of Service



■ LOS (Days)	484	414	781	472	430	308	1629	475	87	59	277
■ Direct (Minutes)	775	1085	2445	1650	1095	1030	4750	1005	645	135	1340
■ Indirect (Minutes)	1821	595	2212	1120	2000	450	3255	850	620	670	1000

■ LOS (Days) ■ Direct (Minutes) ■ Indirect (Minutes)

NDIS Social Worker Lead Role

- Pilot position for 6 months in 2018 & later funding for a further 6 months until September 2019.
- Proactively facilitate and coordinate the discharge planning for patients with multi-faceted NDIS care needs to reduce their length of stay.
- Raise systemic issues and barriers to discharge at the NDIS & Canberra Hospital interface.

NDIS Social Work lead Role

4 key components to this role:

1. Patients with high level disability care needs and unsuitable housing options resulting in patient's inability to be discharged from Canberra Hospital without a NDIS plan.
2. Single point of contact for the NDIS/NDIA for Canberra Hospital patients.
3. Build upon and strengthen relationships within the disability sector and NDIS providers.
4. Provide consultation for other ACT Health divisions.

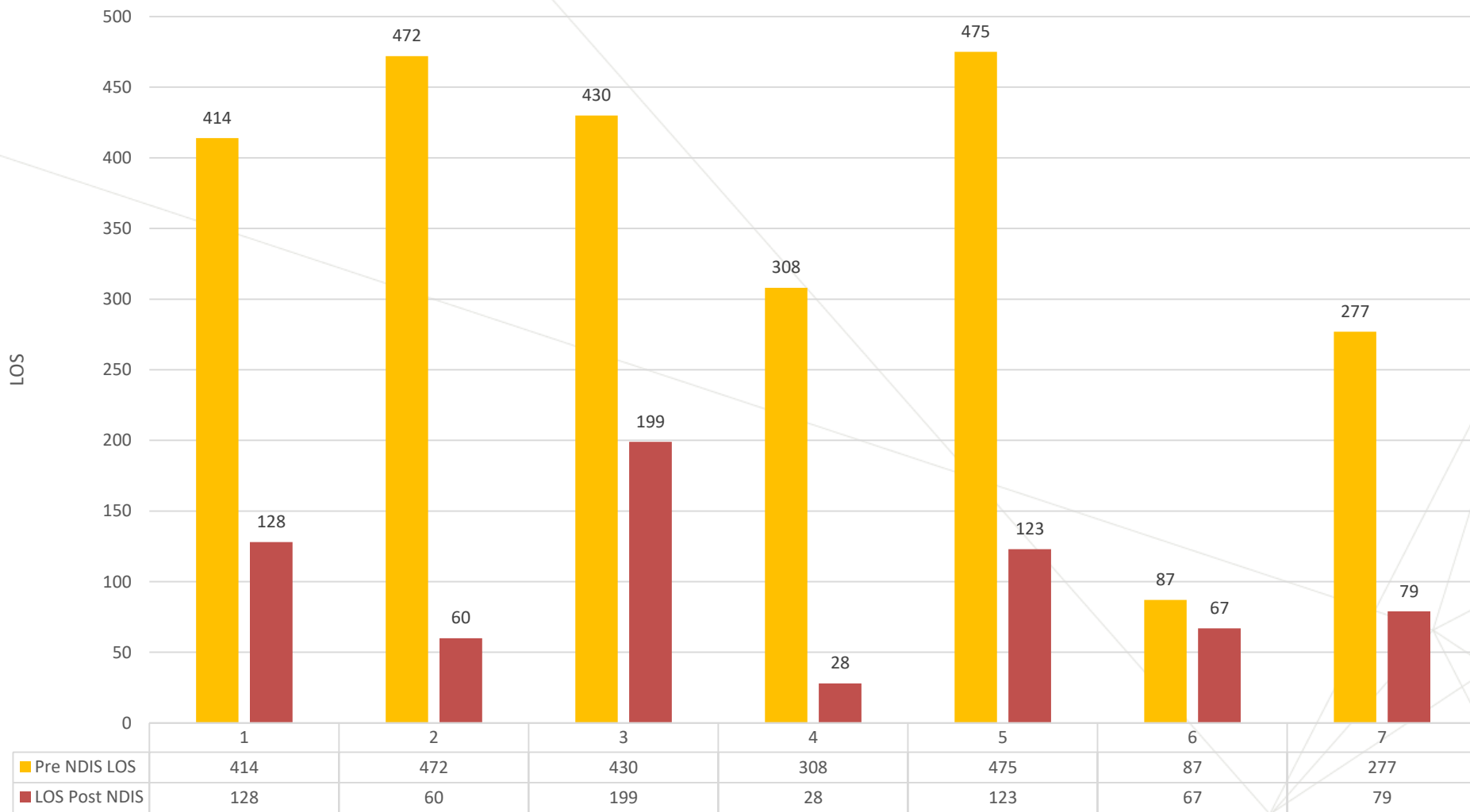
Outcomes

- The 6 month pilot position reduced LOS for twenty long stay patients.
- Providing a potential cost saving of \$330, 000 for the 6 month period.
- NDIA approvals for Specialist Disability Accommodation and Supported Independent Living for the 5 longest stay patients.
- First Platinum level SDA property in ACT being built for their scheduled discharge this November 2019.

Outcomes



LOS Comparison Pre and Post NDIS Social Work Lead



Number of Patients

■ Pre NDIS LOS
 ■ LOS Post NDIS

Why a Social Worker?

Social Workers hold an expert knowledge base specialising in:

- Social Justice & Social Inclusion.
- Empowering the disempowered and seeking equality.
- Expert understanding of Systems Theories.
- High level advocacy & mediation skills.
- Counselling utilising a trauma informed lens.

This is at its core, a Social Work role.

Questions?

