

From: [Policy team](#)
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Concerns regarding NDIA evidence given to Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee | 4 December 2025
Date: Wednesday, 17 December 2025 3:20:07 PM

Dear Secretariat,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Australian Psychosocial Alliance (APA) to raise our concerns regarding evidence provided by the NDIA's Deputy CEO, Mr Scott McNaughton, within [the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearing on the Supplementary Budget estimates](#) on 4th December 2025.

The statements we refer to are on pages 55-56 of [the transcript](#) from the Committee hearing.

In this discussion, Senator Ruston questioned the NDIA about financial barriers to accessing the NDIS for people with psychosocial disabilities. In response, the NDIA's Deputy CEO, Mr Scott McNaughton, said that people can "get reports through Medicare" to submit as evidence of permanent disability to the NDIA.

We strongly believe that the NDIA has provided an incorrect response to the Committee and should be asked to correct the record at the earliest opportunity.

Psychiatrists **cannot** realistically produce the detailed NDIS psychosocial disability and functional capacity reports required using Medicare alone. Current MBS items, rebates, and time allocations do not cover the work involved. As a result, this work is often partially unfunded or billed privately outside the Medicare schedule. While some aspects might fit within a standard consultation item, this is rare and does not address the broader cost and workload issues for patients or clinicians.

Medicare also does **not** guarantee subsidised fees for accessing personal medical records. There are instances where GP practices may cover some of these costs through Medicare. However, this is not guaranteed, often still has large gap fees and is leading to vulnerable Australians paying more on an almost lottery basis.

In writing our report, [Access Denied: Psychosocial Disability and the NDIS](#), the APA identified this trend through a series of conversations with our staff and partner organisations, including:

- asked to pay \$198
for files from his GP and \$1,750 for a psychiatrist report.
- being
quoted \$800-\$1,200 for her GP files.

Please note that these individuals have not provided consent for these further details of

their stories to be shared publicly at this stage, beyond the costs noted in the report.

We understand that a discussion spanning both disability and health/ mental health services can be complex, however this is a crucial issue of equitable access to the NDIS. The suggestion that Medicare resolves financial barriers to access is simply untrue.

We have also written to Senator Ruston to raise our concerns regarding this matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the Australian Psychosocial Alliance (APA)



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Mind acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the intergenerational impact of the history of invasion, dispossession and colonisation and are committed to the recognition, respect, inclusion and wellbeing of Australia's first peoples.

Mind values the experience and contribution of people from all cultures, sexualities, genders, bodies, abilities, ages, spiritualities and backgrounds.