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Ms Apolline Kohen
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Via email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Kohen

I am writing in response to the concerns raised by Mind Australia Limited with the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs regarding the evidence I provided about financial barriers to accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) at the 2025-26 Supplementary Estimates hearing on 4 December 2025.

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston's question was to seek clarity on what options were available for individuals who may not be able to privately fund evidence and allied health reports to support an NDIS access request. My evidence provided broader information on what individuals may be able to access. Individuals with psychosocial disability can use Medicare to access services that provide a benefit, for example a general practitioner appointment. In my evidence, I noted:

“Treating health professionals—through their general practitioner—can fill in an access request form and can fund that through Medicare.”

I can confirm the statement is accurate, and I did not suggest that all reports and evidence are available through Medicare. The partial Medicare funding for the production of reports and evidence is at the discretion of the medical practitioner and cannot be influenced by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

The NDIA and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) are committed to improving the lives of people living with psychosocial disability. We continue to work in conjunction with participants, families and carers, state and territory governments and other stakeholders to improve the NDIS experience for participants with psychosocial disability.

The DHDA oversees the [Better Access initiative](#). This initiative enables eligible people with a clinically diagnosed mental disorder to receive Medicare benefits for selected mental health treatment services provided by eligible general practitioners, eligible prescribed medical practitioners, eligible psychologists (clinical and registered), eligible social workers and eligible occupational therapists.

Thank you for bringing Mind Australia Limited's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Scott McNaughton
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Service Delivery
National Disability Insurance Agency

13 March 2026