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Office of the CEO

Senator Marielle Smith
Chair
Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Via email: Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Smith

Please find attached a letter to Senator Jordon Steele-John as a supplementary response to National Disability Insurance Agency's Question on Notice NDIA SQ23-000117, in relation to the assessment of National Disability Insurance Scheme access applications for people with Functional Neurological Disorder.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Falkingham
Chief Executive Officer
National Disability Insurance Agency

19 September 2023



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Senator Jordon Steele-John
Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Dear Senator Steele-John

I am writing to you in response to your request for a supplementary response to Question on Notice NDIA SQ23-000117, relating to the assessment of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) access applications for people with Functional Neurological Disorder.

As described in the response to NDIA SQ23-000117, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) utilises the NDIS Operational Guideline (OG), Applying to the NDIS, to assess a person's eligibility for the NDIS. The Applying to the NDIS OG states:

'To meet the disability requirements, we must have evidence of all the following:

- You have a disability caused by an impairment.
- Your impairment is likely to be permanent.
- Your impairment means you have a substantially reduced functional capacity to do one or more daily life activities. These activities include moving around, communicating, socialising, learning, undertaking self-care, or self-management tasks.
- Your impairment affects your ability to work, study or take part in social life.
- You'll likely need NDIS supports your whole life.'

This OG is published on the NDIS website at
<https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/home/becoming-participant/applying-ndis>

There is no separate OG for specific disabilities including Functional Neurological Disorder, as when NDIA staff assess eligibility, they make the decision based on evidence provided by the applicants treating clinician to determine whether the impairment meets the eligibility criteria listed above.

A copy of this letter has been provided to the Committee Affairs Legislation Committee Chair.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Falkingham
Chief Executive Officer
National Disability Insurance Agency

19 September 2023