



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

MEDIA RELEASE

Report tabled: Inquiry into the NDIS participant experience in rural, regional and remote Australia

The Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (JSC NDIS) today tabled its report for its inquiry into the NDIS participant experience in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Throughout this inquiry, the committee sought to better understand the experience, choice and control of NDIS participants who live in rural, regional and remote areas. The committee was especially interested in hearing about the NDIS experiences of First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in remote areas.

Through hearings across the country in the 47th Parliament, and over 100 submissions, the committee heard about how the NDIS was assisting many people with disability in rural and remote communities. However, it is evident that challenges remain for NDIS participants in rural, regional and remote areas. These challenges include limited access to information, complicated application processes, a lack of access to appropriate supports and culturally appropriate services, and an ongoing need to build and retain a local NDIS presence alongside medical and allied health workforce in rural, regional and remote communities.

In its report, the committee puts forward 10 recommendations to address these challenges and to remove barriers for participants to access the NDIS, regardless of where they live across Australia. The committee's recommendations include:

- the development of training and cultural awareness programs, and cultural safety training, for NDIS staff and partner organisations operating in rural, regional and remote communities;
- the development of communications strategies and materials in First Nations languages, and in community languages for CALD communities, to more effectively deliver information about the NDIS to these groups;

REPORT TABLED

6 November 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ms Libby Coker MP, Chair
Senator Maria Kovacic, Deputy Chair
Ms Carol Berry MP
Senator the Hon Carol Brown
Hon Justine Elliot MP
Ms Dai Le MP
Senator Corinne Mulholland
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- that the relevant departments and agencies work with the medical profession to explore initiatives to address shortages of medical and allied health professionals and NDIS staff in rural, regional and remote areas; and
- that the relevant agencies and departments work with First Nations community-controlled organisations to deliver culturally safe NDIS services to First Nations participants as preferred providers.

The Chair of the JSC NDIS, Ms Libby Coker MP, said:

People with disability and their families are at the heart of this report. It highlights the unique circumstances NDIS participants face in rural, regional and remote Australia. NDIS participants in these regions face thin markets and limited access to services. There are particular challenges regarding cultural and linguistic awareness relating to first nations peoples with disability.

The implementation of the committee's recommendations would improve access to the NDIS for participants in rural, regional and remote areas, while also helping to support local workforces in these areas.

The committee thanks all those people with disability, their families and carers who live in rural, regional and remote areas, and who participated in the inquiry by providing submissions and attending public hearings.

Further information on the committee's inquiry, including the tabled report, can be found on the committee's [inquiry webpage](#).