

Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Canberra Hearing – 14 June 2024, Answers to Question on Notice by Down Syndrome NSW

Senator Linda Reynolds:

Q: If all of you can take on notice the details about the nondisclosure agreements you have signed, the subjects of the briefings, on what date was the briefings were, who asked you to sign the nondisclosure agreements, if you have received a copy of the RedBridge focus groups, if you have received a briefing on the content and if you have received a briefing about how to communicate this legislation and the government's reform agenda in the NDIS?

A: NDA - no, I have never signed one nor has anyone at Down Syndrome NSW.

RedBridge focus groups - no, I have not received any briefing on this nor a briefing on how to communicate the legislation.

Senator Linda Reynolds:

Q: Can you also answer whether you have ever met with Bill Shorten's staff to discuss this legislation and related issues, including fraud?

A: No individual meetings regarding the legislation and fraud. We have attended the following at which Minister Shorten's staff were in attendance:

- NDIS Town Halls in Melbourne, Sydney, Darwin, Adelaide;
- NDIS Community Catch Up in Sydney and Canberra;
- NDIS Roundtable in Sydney;
- National Press Club Speeches in Canberra.

Senator Linda Reynolds:

Q: As part of those briefings, have you or anyone in your organisation ever met with Miss Julianne Stewart.

A: No.

Senator Linda Reynolds:

Q: Have you ever had any discussions or received any material from anyone—and, if so, who—about how to spin this legislation, how to frame it and how to talk about it?

A: No.

Additional information:

In light of the questions on notice above, we wish to assert that as a trusted peak body for over 40 years, we are proudly independent, with no political bias. We support consultation and codesign in a range of forms in order to achieve optimal outcomes for people with Down

syndrome and intellectual disability and their families. Down Syndrome NSW will continue to independently engage and advocate on behalf of our members.