

# 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 Inclusion Australia

### **Q: A list of non-disclosure agreements signed by you or your organisations, the content of those NDAs, and who asked you to sign those non-disclosure agreements**

A: I was asked by DSS to sign a deed of confidentiality to attend a small number of NDIS Reform briefings in March 2024. These briefings were attended by me as Inclusion Australia CEO. The briefings included high level information on the themes of the upcoming legislation and did not include any details of the legislation itself.

Two Inclusion Australia staff members were asked to sign Confidentiality Deed Polls by the NDIA to attend NDIA Integrity Initiatives DRCO Briefings. The first was signed by Inclusion Australia Senior Manager, Maeve Kennedy, who attended a session in March or April on IA's behalf (I am not sure of the date as I did not attend) and the second was signed by me related to a briefing I attended in May 2024.

Over the past 12 months, I have also signed other non-disclosure agreements unrelated to the NDIS legislation, for example, to participate in the Department of Health Roadmap Implementation Governance Group and the DSS National Disability Data Asset Council.

### **Q: Subject, dates and locations of briefings with DSS/Minister**

A: As the national Disability Representative Organisation for people with an intellectual disability and their families, Inclusion Australia attends a broad range of briefings, fora, roundtables, and workshops related to a wide range of issues including the NDIS, disability employment (both supported employment and DES related), health, supported decision making, income support, and more. We also regularly seek meetings with relevant ministers, their advisors, and with senior DSS and NDIA staff. IA attends multiple meetings of this type per week – some online, some in person. Locations this year have included Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. I am confident DSS, the NDIA and the Ministers office would be well placed to provide this information.

### **Q: Whether you received copies of any of the RedBridge focus groups reports, about how to communicate this legislation and the government's reform agenda in the NDIS? Anything further from anyone else about how to spin the legislation or how to frame or talk about it?**

A: I am aware that what was referred to in the hearing as 'the Redbridge report' was included as part of an agenda item on strategic communications during the DRCO Forum in February 2023. Maeve Kennedy attended this meeting as the Inclusion Australia representative as I was in Sydney for an event attended by Minister Rishworth. Maeve's verbal feedback to me afterwards noted a report on some focus groups on attitudes to the NDIS as an element of the meeting.

Neither of us received any papers, nor any instructions on how to communicate about the NDIS, let alone the legislation.

Inclusion Australia is an independent disability rights organisation that prides itself on 'speaking truth to power'. We represent the views and interests of the community we serve. Inclusion Australia has never delivered any 'spin' of behalf of government or taken advice on how to talk about legislation. Any and all views expressed are our own, and we engage in policy and advocacy discussions with government without fear or favour.

**Q: Have you or anyone you worked with ever met with Julianne Stewart**

A: I do not believe I have met with Julianne Stewart, and I am not familiar with the name. I am not aware of anyone else at Inclusion Australia who has met with her.