Inquiry into the NDIS participant experience in rural, regional and remote Australia – Public hearing – 28 June 2024

Questions on notice – First Peoples Disability Network

p. 43 of Proof Committee Hansard

Question:

Ms Alicia Payne MP: That was my next question actually. You said that a market based scheme is a nonsense to communities. Can you expand on that? I understand we've heard evidence around individualised plans as something that people would like to see. People would like to see plans pulled or plans brought together so people can arrange supports together; is that something you agree with?

Response:

Our conceptualisation of pooled NDIS plans involves combining funds from multiple individuals or "plans" to invest in community-based solutions that benefit the entire community more effectively. For instance, pooled funds could be used to invest in projects like disability transport buses that serve local residents, reducing the need for expensive out-of-town transport. Another example is using funds to support a local workforce; by hiring and training individuals within the community, we can minimise costs and provide more effective services that reduce the need for people to travel or to fly workers in.

FPDN's support for this conceptualisation of pooled plans reflects our belief in community-driven approaches such as the examples above.