

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012
Date: Thursday, 27 December 2012 1:12:08 AM

Please consider this email a formal submission by me to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012.

The current disability system has many problems that need to be addressed.

I am an amputee as a result on a head-on car accident in 1988. My husband, also injured in the accident, was `made redundant` in 2007, and now aged 64, has reduced earnings from his part-time position, with which to support us both for as long as we live. New prostheses are extremely costly, and even repairs and alterations to the existing one are frighteningly so. My one attempt, some months ago, to obtain financial assistance via Centrelink due to the disability was stymied at the point where some financial details were required. I was unable to provide these, but thought that my husband could. Before I knew it, a letter was sent to me from the Office, stating that my time allowance for providing the information had expired, resulting in `Case Closed`. The paperwork had been placed on my husband`s desk, awaiting the information, which had not come to light in time ! I think that the likelihood of being able to obtain and maintain paid employment myself now, should this be my only means of supporting this disability for the remainder of the life is not good, being infirm and also 64 years of age already at this stage. So a means of assistance as the years go on would be very much appreciated by both of us ! The original Compensation payment made by the Courts did help initially, but was not sufficient for the long term needs that seem to be becoming increasingly expensive, just for the skilled labour alone, let alone the amazing innovations in the area of limb loss rehabilitation.

The main features of the NDIS that will make a difference to the community are:

Better access to mainstream support and services, The ability to receive services when needed and in the way that suits the person, Older parents and families will not worry what happens when they can no longer provide support

The most important services for the NDIS to provide are:

Equipment and home/vehicle modifications, In-home care and domestic assistance, Crisis and emergency support

I support the introduction of the NDIS.

Stability of psychological, educational and physical support mechanisms will ensure that many with disabilities will be able to rise above their disadvantages, able to make really positive contributions to the society of which they are a part. Caring parents and life partners will be freed up also to contribute to their communities, knowing that their loved ones are being given dignity and generosity in order to be able to reach goals and achieve milestones currently impossible to attain.

We all pay taxes throughout our working lives, but some suffer debilitating setbacks along the way.

`Love thy neighbour as thyself` would seem to support this method of keeping everyone on an even keel, for the benefit of the whole.

I agree for my submission to be made public

Regards,

mrs margaret makewell