

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

Public Hearing – 22 May 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

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

Question reference number: IQ24-000035

Question asked by: Maria Kovacic

Type of Question: Written. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 05 June 2024

Question:

4. What has your consultation process been in designing this Bill?

Answer:

Consultation through the NDIS Review

The Bill addresses some of the key recommendations from the 2023 Independent Review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), following its deep engagement with the disability community.

The NDIS Review consulted broadly across Australia, and their recommendations were informed by the contributions of people with lived experience through their engagement with the Panel. The Panel:

- heard from over 10,000 people and organisations
- received over 4,000 submissions
- spent over 2,000 hours listening to the stories, ideas, and feedback of people with disability, and
- met with Commonwealth, state, and territory disability ministers.

Stakeholder engagement

Minister Shorten and officials have continued to engage and listen to feedback from the disability community since the NDIS Review was finalised.

This has included through 9 town hall meetings on the Review's findings and recommendations which were conducted by members of the Review Panel and the Minister for the NDIS, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, involving around 5,200 participants in person and online.

Minister Shorten, the Department of Social Services (department) and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) met monthly in the lead up to the introduction of the Bill with a group of disability stakeholders to discuss the intent and content of the proposed legislative changes.

Since the introduction of the Bill to Parliament, the Minister has hosted 8 community events to discuss the reforms and the department has conducted three information webinars, involving a combined total of over 4,900 community members who joined in person or online. Feedback and questions from this engagement has informed proposed parliamentary amendments to the Bill.

The NDIA has agreed a co-design approach with Disability Representative and Carer Organisations and the NDIS Independent Advisory Council, and NDIS participants to support detailed design and implementation of the reforms, which has been endorsed by the Minister, department and the National Quality and Safeguards Commission

States and Territories

On 6 December 2023, the National Cabinet agreed to introduce legislation and other changes to the NDIS in the first half of 2024 to improve the experience of participants and restore the original intent of the Scheme to support people with permanent and significant disability.

Since late last year, States and territories have been engaged on the legislation and broader reforms to the NDIS through the Disability Reform Ministerial Council meetings, as well as extensive and regular work by senior officials across all jurisdictions.