



## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

### TABLING OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS REPORT

19 October 2021

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) today tabled its final report for the inquiry into independent assessments.

“The report has 6 recommendations, geared towards broader matters of financial sustainability, approaches to co-design and consultation, and bulk-billed appointments with medical and allied health professionals,” Committee Chair, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, said.

“Interest in the inquiry from people with disability, advocacy organisations and the allied health sector was significant,” Mr Andrews said.

“In addition to over 400 submissions received and 8 public hearings held, the committee also looked at the principles of co-design, how functional assessments have been used in other contexts, the tools proposed and whether they were fit-for-purpose, and literature provided by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) concerning assessments around the world.”

“The committee also commissioned the Parliamentary Budget Office to determine how much a new Medical Benefits Schedule item would cost to cover consultations with health and allied health professionals for access and planning purposes,” he said.

The committee thanks all those who contributed to the inquiry by lodging submissions, expressing their views via correspondence and appearing at public hearings. In particular, the committee acknowledges the people with disability, their families and carers who shared their experiences and views. The testimony of people with disability is crucial to identifying issues with the NDIS and improving the operation of the scheme.

The committee welcomed the announcement from Minister for the NDIS, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, that the Government would not be proceeding with independent assessments in their proposed form and would be taking the time to consult in a meaningful way.

From here, the committee will be maintaining a close eye on the next steps that the Government and the NDIA take, particularly around co-design and any revised forms of assessments proposed.

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