

25 August 2021

The Hon Alister Henskens MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

NDIS Age Discrimination

I write to support the community campaign to open the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to people over 65 years of age.

I understand that someone who acquires a disability after 65 years of age is excluded from the NDIS and its benefits. A number of constituents have contacted me tell me that the very limited and delayed access to support through MyAgedCare does not meet the needs of someone with disability.

Disability advocates report that almost half of Australians living with a disability are over 65 years of age and excluded from NDIS support. They tell me that someone who has a Spinal Cord Injury is eligible for \$52,000 a year through MyAgedCare, but would receive \$165,600 through the NDIS to meet their support needs. They say that NDIS support increases to meet increasing need, but MyAgedCare support does not.

I share community concern that a fair disability insurance scheme must not exclude older people from access to the support they need. While the NDIS is a Commonwealth Government scheme, it operates with the agreement of state and territory governments.

I understand that all governments must endorse the 10-year National Disability Strategy being developed to guide the NDIS future. I share widespread community support for the strategy to end age discrimination in the NDIS with the scheme to include people over 65 years who acquire a disability.

Could you please advocate for inclusion of people over 65 years of age in the NDIS National Disability Strategy and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

