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TURNBULL HOLDS NDIS HOSTAGE

The Turnbull Government is now holding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) hostage over its \$5.6 billion in cuts to families, new mums, pensioners, people with disability, carers and young jobseekers.

This is a disgraceful political game of brinksmanship.

People with disability do not deserve to be treated with such contempt by the Turnbull Government.

The Liberals have no right to hold the NDIS hostage to its cruel cuts.

The Liberals are lying when they say the NDIS is not funded.

In the 2013-14 Budget, the Labor Government clearly identified how the NDIS would be funded for ten years.

This included a 0.5 per cent increase in the Medicare Levy. The Medicare Levy was always intended to cover some – not all – of the cost of the NDIS. That's why Labor made responsible Budget choices to help fund the NDIS.

Figures underpinning these savings were developed and published by the Treasury—led at that time by Martin Parkinson, now the secretary of the Prime Minister's Department.

Linking the delivery of the NDIS to massive cuts to families, pensioners, people with disability, carers and Newstart recipients is simply appalling.

Is the Turnbull Government seriously saying that if these unfair cuts aren't passed through the Senate then the NDIS will not go ahead?

The NDIS is a bipartisan reform that should be above politics. Instead Mr Turnbull wants to use the NDIS as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the Senate.

This is just another alibi for the cruel cuts that the Liberals have been trying to get through the Parliament since the 2014 Budget.

People with disability have waited their whole lives for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Mr Turnbull and Mr Porter should get on with the job of delivering the NDIS. They should stop lying to people with disability, and they should stop putting the future of the NDIS into doubt.

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