

Media release: Disability groups urge NDIS Minister Reynolds for a reset

30 April 2021

Disability advocates today delivered new NDIS Minister Linda Reynolds a formal 'terms of engagement' in a bid to reset relations between the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) and people with disability, their families and community.

Australia's major disability representative and disabled persons organisations have been increasingly concerned that the NDIS is changing in order to slash costs – rather than continue the investment in individualised services and supports for people with disability.

This is an opportunity for the new minister to build a new model of engagement with people with disability based on mutual respect and common sense of purpose. Without this commitment it is difficult to see how people with disability and the disability community can continue to work productively with the NDIA.

Mary Sayers, CEO of Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) on behalf of the group of disability advocates, said that this is a pivotal point in the in the development of the world leading NDIS.

"This is a truly defining moment for Minister Linda Reynolds. It will determine how willing she is to engage in real consultation with us on behalf of over 430,000 people with disability who use the NDIS and their families.

"The NDIS is a critical piece of Australia's social infrastructure, like Medicare. The success of the NDIS should be defined by how well it supports people with disability.

"People with disability, our families and community will continue to speak up against these changes, but we need a reset in this relationship. The flawed and widely criticised plan to introduce NDIS compulsory assessments shows what happens when people with disability and their representative organisations are not involved. We are deeply concerned that this is a giant leap backwards with processes in place that are unreliable and unethical.

"We are asking for the Minister to stop, rebuild trust and respond to our concerns. The time is now," she said.

Mary Sayers is available for comment today from 2:30pm (AEST).

Media contact: Afsah Haque 0410 860 435

