

DISABILITY DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE

BUT THE GOVERNMENT DOES

Dear MP,

I am a constituent of your electorate and have learned through the “Disability Doesn’t Discriminate” campaign that Australians who become disabled over the age of 65 are NOT eligible for funding under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Also excluded are Australians who were over 65 and living with a disability when the NDIS was implemented.

I note that the Disability Doesn’t Discriminate campaign has already amassed 20,000 signatures and is seeking to influence the next federal election by promoting this issue.

I also note that the Australian Human Rights Commission has accepted a complaint about the exclusion of someone from the NDIS based on their age, naming the Prime Minister as the representative of the Commonwealth in the complaint.

I am writing to ask what your position is on the issue of age discrimination against people living with a disability and request that you reply with an outline of what action you will take.

I call on you to:

1. Introduce a Private Member’s Bill to overturn the amendment to the Age Discrimination Act enacted in 2013 that allowed the NDIS to legally exclude people over the age of 65 who become disabled.

2. Lobby the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Senator Linda Reynolds, to amend the NDIS legislation so all Australians are eligible, regardless of age.

3. Urge the Federal Government to adopt and bring forward two key recommendations from the 2021 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

a. Recommendation 72: Equity for people with disability receiving aged care By 1 July 2024, every person receiving aged care who is living with disability, regardless of when acquired, should receive through the aged care program daily living supports and outcomes (including assistive technologies, aids, and equipment) equivalent to those that would be available under the National Disability Insurance Scheme to a person under the age of 65 years with the same or substantially similar conditions.

b. Recommendation 73: Annual reporting to Parliament by the Disability Discrimination Commissioner and the Age Discrimination Commissioner By 1 July 2024, the Disability Discrimination Commissioner and the Age Discrimination Commissioner should be required, as part of the new National Disability Strategy, to report annually to the Parliament on the number of people receiving aged care with a disability who are aged 65 years or older and their ability to access daily living supports and outcomes (including assistive technologies, aids and equipment) equivalent to those available under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

You can learn more about the “Disability Doesn’t Discriminate” campaign at:
www.disabilitydoesntdiscriminate.com.au.

As a voter, your reply to these important issues matters to me. Thank you in advance.