16 June 2016

To whom it may concern:

Subject: Response to ‘Designing the new integrated carer support service’

Macarthur Disability Services (MDS) is a non-government organisation which has been in operation for 34 years. MDS offers a range of services and support programs to people of all ages with a disability, their families, carers, the elderly and people with a mental illness living across the South Western Sydney, Macarthur and Sothern Highlands regions.

MDS is pleased to provide a response to ‘Designing the new integrated carer support service’. This response has been informed by consultation and reference to feedback survey from carers using our services and staff members, In particular carers using our Community Care Services (Counselling, Support, Information and Advocacy) and Haven Project (NRDF) funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services have provided valuable input. These two projects provide a service to over 200 carers at any given time. These services provide a range of supports that are designed to enhance carer wellbeing, reduce isolation, education/training and skills development, peer support, care coordination, information and non-therapeutic counseling. MDS has built strong relationships across diverse communities, especially with carers from Aboriginal background.

Should any person require further information in relation to this response, please contact Julie Deane, General Manager Community Mental Health and Training – P: (02)4621 8400,

E: julied@mdservices.com.au .

Yours faithfully

Lynne Bennett

Chief Operations Officer