

21 June 2017

NDIS Quality Safeguards
Department of Health

Via online lodgment

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To whom it may concern,

RE: National Disability Insurance Scheme - Code of Conduct Discussion Paper

I write to you with regard to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Code of Conduct Discussion Paper. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is the largest professional organisation for psychology in Australia representing over 22,000 members of whom a significant portion deliver evidence-based psychological services in the disability sector.

The APS commends the Department of Social Service's development of a National Code of Conduct (the Code) noting that it will be a central element to the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework and that it has incorporated the principles underpinning the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. It is pleasing that the Code acknowledges the existing professional codes of conducts, such as the APS Code of Ethics for psychologists. The Code appears to ensure a consistent definition of acceptable practices to reduce confusion and to minimise any additional burden on the registered health workforce.

The APS is of the view that successful implementation of the Code will be an important component of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework. To achieve this, there will need to be extensive education and support to those who will be covered by the Code. In this regard, I note that registered providers delivering supports and all workers of registered providers engaged in the delivery of NDIS funded supports will be provided with a compulsory orientation module. I seek clarification that this will extend to allied health professionals such as psychologists who are non-registered providers of services to NDIS clients.

The APS is well placed to assist in the development and dissemination of educational resources and support to psychologists and other workers under the NDIS scheme. I can be contacted on the following number to discuss this further ph. 03 8662 3314.

Kind regards



Dr Louise Roufeil PhD, FAPS, MCHP
Executive Manager Professional Practice