



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

MC21-006800

Mr Saul Isbister
President, Touching Base
info@touchingbase.org

Dear Mr Isbister

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 2021 to the Minister for Government Services and Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, concerning supports provided under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Australian Government's consistent position is that using NDIS funds to pay for the services of a sex worker is not in line with community expectations or the broader intent of the NDIS. The Government considers that, as for any other person, the cost of sexual services for an NDIS participant should come from their general income, which may include income support provided by the government.

I would like to assure you that it is not the Government's intention to restrict the ability of the NDIS to fund other supports that could assist a person to express their sexuality and develop sexual relationships for the purposes of procreation, pleasure or intimacy.

There is also no intention to prevent the NDIS from providing funding for other supports that enable people with disability to have control over, choice about, and access to services pertaining to their sexuality and ability to exercise sexual rights and freedoms.

Rather, the Government considers it appropriate to limit any exclusion in relation to sex workers solely to paid sex work or a support that uses a device for a similar purpose.

Before taking a final position on Rules to give effect to this policy, Minister Reynolds has committed to listening to the concerns raised by people with disability, their families and disability organisations, such as your own, that support them.

Thank you for your advocacy on this issue. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Yeend".

Julie Yeend LVO
Branch Manager
NDIS Governance
23 August 2021