

# Submission to NDIA

## *RE: Removing the Ability to Use Non-NDIS Registered Providers.*

As a member of the disability community who is plan managed, I have appreciated the flexibility to use products and services from providers that are either registered or not registered with the NDIS (all with Australian Business Numbers [ABN] and members of the relevant professional boards).

Making only NDIS registered providers able to provide services to NDIS clients means that participants are no longer able to access unregistered providers, which would mean the cost per session for the client would increase for services where the provider is charging less than the rate in the NDIS price guide.

I acknowledge that there are some providers that can take advantage of people with disabilities but this can happen with both registered and non registered providers. An example of a registered provider is an agency that matches support workers with people with disabilities that require support. An unregistered provider example that I have used is a local council pool and recreation centre that runs a program for people of different abilities to be supported to access the facilities safely. I have experienced it to be more cost effective to access unregistered providers for support with pool and recreation facilities.

The providers I have engaged with who are not NDIS registered tend to charge a more competitive rate for the service or product provided. Providers I have questioned as a potential client have given the reasoning that there is extra time and expenses required to support ndis clients and maintain their registration.

Most NDIS registered providers automatically charge the (highest) rate in the price guide for NDIS clients when their rate for non NDIS clients is usually substantially lower. It is known that the medicare rate for services such as exercise physiology is approximately half the rate that the maximum that a Exercise Physiologist treating a NDIS client is able to charge.

I fear that the proposed changes will severely affect my choice and control to choose services that are both cost effective and best match my needs. This will negatively impact my overall well-being and ability to function independently in society.

I beg you to reconsider the proposed changes especially regarding removing the ability to use unregistered service providers.