

## **Submission to the NDIS: Importance of Funding Professional Hair Removal Services**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed removal of funding for hair removal services at professional salons through the NDIS. As a participant in the scheme with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), I am directly affected by this change, and I believe it contradicts the core principles of the NDIS—namely, to provide choice and control to individuals with disabilities while also preserving our dignity.

**Safety Concerns:** Due to my condition, I am unable to safely shave or wax my body hair on my own. The use of a razor or other hair removal tools presents a significant risk, as I am physically unable to reach certain areas of my body. I require assistance for these tasks, but I am uncomfortable and concerned about the safety of allowing an inexperienced support worker to perform these personal and intimate tasks. A professional salon offers the expertise and safety needed to perform these services in a manner that protects my well-being.

**Preserving Dignity:** One of the core values of the NDIS is to enable participants to live with dignity. The ability to choose how and where I receive hair removal services is crucial to maintaining my dignity. Attending a professional salon allows me to ensure that these personal care tasks are performed in a private, respectful, and safe environment. This choice should not be taken away, as it directly impacts my quality of life and my ability to participate in social activities.

**Impact on Quality of Life:** The removal of this funding will have a direct and negative impact on my quality of life. I would be unable to go swimming or wear clothing suitable for summer weather, as I would be uncomfortable exposing parts of my body that I cannot groom on my own. This would lead to social isolation and a decrease in my physical activity, both of which are detrimental to my health and well-being.

**Value for Money:** From a financial perspective, funding professional hair removal services is more cost-effective for the NDIS than using a support worker for the same purpose. A support worker would need to assist with shaving at least weekly, at a cost of \$67.56 per hour. In contrast, waxing at a professional salon costs approximately \$80-\$100 and only needs to be done every 5-6 weeks. This not only reduces the financial burden on the NDIS but also minimizes the time spent on these tasks, allowing support workers to focus on other critical areas of care.

**Choice and Control:** The NDIS was founded on the principle of giving individuals with disabilities the choice and control over their care. By removing the option to attend a professional salon for hair removal, the NDIS is effectively removing my ability to make choices about my own body and personal care. This is a breach of the scheme's commitment to uphold the rights and dignity of its participants.

In conclusion, I urge the NDIS to reconsider the decision to remove funding for professional hair removal services. This service is essential for many participants, including myself, to maintain our dignity, safety, and quality of life. Additionally, it represents a more cost-effective solution for the NDIS. I strongly believe that the NDIS should continue to support this choice as part of its commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

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