

Consultation submission

Section 10 – draft lists of NDIS Supports

For the Department of Social Services

By email only to: NDISConsultations@dss.gov.au

I am writing to express my disappointment with the proposed changes to the NDIS.

The main reason I voted for Labor in the last federal election was because I trusted Bill Shorten to protect the NDIS. To see Minister Shorten stand beside Pauline Hanson (someone who was repeatedly demonstrated discriminatory views) concerns me deeply.

Disability affects all aspects of a person's life, therefore, the crude approach of 'in' and 'out' lists is at odds with the nuance of each participant's needs. I fear that applications for necessary, reasonable and cost-effective supports may be rejected due to the broad categories on the draft exclusion list.

I was particularly appalled to learn from the Disability Advocacy Network Australia that these lists were not developed with any disability advocacy or representative group. This is contrary to Minister Shorten's and the NDIS IAC's commitment to a co-design approach for important NDIS reform.

The inclusion of sex work and sex toys on the draft exclusion list is another example of contradiction. Minister Hanson stated, regarding sex work and sex toys, "That is not a necessity of life as far as I'm concerned." However, The Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidises the drug Viagra, where the cost to the government is between \$54 to \$82 per packet depending on the brand. There were more than 16,999 prescriptions issued under the scheme in the year to June 30 2014, costing the taxpayer \$1.3 million.

Sex work and sex toys should not be on the exclusion list.

The NDIS is a crucial component for disabled Australians to lead a life they choose, and yet it is so often used as a scapegoat for misuse of taxpayer money.

Find your savings elsewhere. Far more taxpayer money is wasted on far less important things than supporting disabled Australians.