



The Hon Bill Shorten MP

**Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Minister for Government Services**

Ref: MC24-003299

The Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Acting Chair of the Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House, George Street
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Shorten

Dear Mr Hinchliffe,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March 2024, concerning the Community Support and Services Committee's Inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation in Queensland.

The Australian Government acknowledges the commitment of the Community Support and Services Committee and trusts the information provided will assist the Inquiry. The Government also acknowledges the importance of appropriate accommodation for people with disability, and with the involvement of state and territory governments, is committed to providing people with disability with a range of housing choices.

The Australian Government has responsibility for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants who are eligible for home and living supports. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) can assist NDIS participants to live independently. There are several different types of supports the NDIS might include in a participant's plan. These include:

- supports that build people's capacity to live independently in the community
- home modifications to the participant's own home or private rental property and on a case-by-case basis in social housing
- support with personal care, such as assistance with showering and dressing
- help around the home where the participant is unable to undertake these tasks due to their disability, such as assistance with cleaning and laundry
- Short Term Accommodation and Medium Term Accommodation in specific circumstances.

In limited circumstances, the NDIA funds specialist disability accommodation (SDA). SDA is a range of housing designed specifically for people with extreme functional impairment or very high support needs. Specific eligibility criteria outlined in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Specialist Disability Accommodation) Rules 2020 (SDA Rules).

In June 2023, Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Ministers considered the experiences of NDIS participants living in supporting boarding house settings and agreed that unethical and unscrupulous service providers have no place in the NDIS and emphasised the importance of ensuring accommodation settings are suitable for NDIS participants.

The communiqué from that meeting is available online: www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-government-international-disability-reform-ministerial-council/communique-23-june-2023.

The NDIS Commission has included participants living in supported boarding houses as a compliance priority for 2023-24. The NDIS Commission has been working with other government agencies on a range of matters associated with the quality and safety supports provided to NDIS participants living in supported boarding house style accommodation. The NDIS Commission has been increasing the use of its regulatory powers to enhance protections for residents of supported boarding houses where they are receiving NDIS supports and services. This includes expanding education and engagement activities with supported boarding house proprietors to clarify their obligations where they are supporting NDIS participants. The NDIS Commission will be hosting a forum for supported boarding house proprietors in Queensland on 30 April 2024.

The provision of accessible and affordable accommodation for people with disability is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments. This includes through public and community housing and the private rental and home ownership markets.

The NDIS is not responsible for the provision of accommodation for those in need of housing assistance, tenancy support, crisis accommodation, homelessness services, forensic and other statutory oversight and monitoring supports, rehabilitation and restorative care services, nor for ensuring that appropriate and accessible social housing is provided for people with disability.

The Australian Government is carefully considering the recommendations from the NDIS Review, alongside those made by the Royal Commission. As part of this process, the Government will continue to consult with people with disability, their families, carers, representative organisations, service providers and the broader community to inform a response that will drive meaningful and lasting change.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention. I trust the information provided will be of assistance to Community Support and Services Committee's Inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation in Queensland.

A copy of this letter has been provided to the Minister for Housing, the Hon Julie Collins MP.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Shorten MP

22/4/2024