

23 March 2017

Review of NDIS Costs  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2600

### Submission to the Productivity Commission's review of NDIS costs

I am pleased to make this submission to the Productivity Commission's Review of NDIS costs on behalf of the Neurological Alliance Australia.

The Neurological Alliance Australia (NAA) is an alliance of not-for-profit peak organisations representing adults and children living with progressive neurological or neuromuscular diseases in Australia, comprising Alzheimer's Australia, Brain Injury Australia, Huntington's Australia, Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Australia, MJD Foundation, MS Australia, Muscular Dystrophy Australia, Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia, Parkinson's Australia and Spinal Muscular Atrophy Australia.

We represent over 850,000 Australians living with progressive neurological or neuromuscular conditions that have no known cause or cure, at a combined annual cost of almost \$30 billion to the Australian economy.

The Alliance launched the Joint Position Paper (attached) at an event at Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday 22 March, 2017 hosted by MPs and Senators representing the Parliamentary Friends of members of the Alliance. The Joint Position Paper sets out a range of matters associated with the implementation of the NDIS, with a focus on identifying issues of shared concern and recommendations for addressing these concerns.

These shared concerns could be summarised as: problems with the planning process, including a perceived lack of understanding by NDIS staff of the chronic diseases represented by the Alliance, including a lack of understanding of invisible symptoms, the episodic nature of some conditions and the variability and complexity that result; lack of recognition by the NDIA of the pre-planning work being undertaken by members of the Alliance which leads to better plans ultimately saving time and money; and recognition by the NDIA that organisations like the members of the Alliance hold long-term expertise in the diseases they represent and therefore a level of some hours of coordination support should be a mandatory part of any plan for a participant who has a disability associated with a progressive neurological or muscular disease.

The NDIS is a significant, major reform in Australia that is supported by all Alliance members. As the NDIS rolls out, we are keen to make sure that any implementation issues are addressed as quickly as possible to ensure the system is the best it can be for people living with a disability.

We trust that these recommendations for improvement will help achieve this aim.

Yours sincerely



Deidre Mackechnie  
**Chairperson**