



PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

4 November 2014

Mr Bob Lee
Sunshine Coast Citizen Advocacy
PO Box 160
WOOMBYE QLD 4559

Dear Mr Lee

Thank you for your letter of 1 October 2014 to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme ('the committee') about the role of citizen advocacy and other issues relating to people with disability and the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The committee has asked that I respond on its behalf.

The committee would like to thank you for drawing these matters to their attention. As you may be aware, the committee published its first report in July 2014—*Progress report on the implementation and administration of the National Disability Insurance Scheme*. In its report, the committee noted evidence received from participants, carers, family members and service providers who highlighted the importance of advocacy and the role of advocates to support people with disability. The committee recognised that there is an important role for advocacy services and recommended that certainty regarding the role and support for advocacy services in the NDIS be urgently resolved through the Ministerial Disability Reform Council.

The committee has identified advocacy as an area of ongoing interest and has indicated its preparedness to conduct a meeting on the advocacy issue in 2015. The secretariat will be back in touch with you to discuss arrangements in early 2015. If you have any questions, the secretariat can be contacted at NDIS.Sen@aph.gov.au or on 02 6277 3083.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Mark Fitt
Committee Secretary