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Senator Wendy Askew  
Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Askew

**Clarification of evidence given at 2019-20 Additional Budget Estimates hearing on 5 March 2020.**

I am writing to clarify an answer provided to the Committee during its examination of the National Disability Insurance Agency in relation to Outcome 3.

I refer to the below extract from page 60 of the proof Hansard transcript:

**Mr Hoffman:** Community supports; they're important.

**Senator STEELE-JOHN:** That would be an in-kind support! That would be something where I could, potentially, access my core support funding to pay for the travel costs of that support worker.

**Mr Hoffman:** Sorry, I do have to clarify—only if that dance class was itself a funded support.

**Senator STEELE-JOHN:** Thank you for clarifying that. It's a funded support, yes, but is there a connection to whether or not that dance class is provided by the service provider that is also employing the support worker?

**Mr Hoffman:** No, that's not a requirement or a linkage.

**Senator STEELE-JOHN:** So you're telling me that as long as I have identified it beforehand as something that I want to do in terms of participating in the community—

**Mr Hoffman:** And it's a funded support activity, then it does haven't to be the same provider who's doing the support worker who's driving you and assisting you to get there.

**Senator STEELE-JOHN:** Alright. That does need clarification then. We still have a scheme, one of the goals of which is increasing the economic participation of participants. I'm wondering then, if I'm getting that support worker to support me to attend the dance class, and the dance class is a regular community thing, am I still then able to access my core supports to attend that?

**Mr Hoffman:** No.

**Senator STEELE-JOHN:** So only if it is a specialist disability service?

**Mr Hoffman:** A funded support, that's right.

I wish to clarify that if a participant has funding for community participation in their plan, they can access “activity based transport” to get to and from mainstream or disability-specific activities, as long as the participant requires a support worker to participate in those activities.

There is no requirement for those activities to be run or delivered by a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider or for the activities to be disability-specific.

For example, a participant who requires a support worker to assist them with swimming lessons, and requires transport to and from the pool, may claim “activity based transport” if it is available in their plan. Noting that the swimming lessons can be either mainstream or disability-specific lessons offered by an NDIS provider. Additionally, the support worker transporting the participant does not have to be employed by the same provider as the support worker assisting them at the activity.

If a participant wants to attend an activity, and does not require a support worker to assist them at that activity, then they can use funds from “general transport” to travel to that activity, as long as “general transport” is included in their plan. For example, a participant who requires transport to a dance class, but does not require support from a support worker to participate in the dance class, would only be able to claim “general transport” and not “activity based transport”.

My answers could have been clearer, but as clarified, the actual situation is more consistent with that desired by Senator Steele-John as per his questions. I regret my immediate answers did not make this clearer.

Yours sincerely



**Martin Hoffman**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Disability Insurance Agency

19 March 2020