



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

**Ray Griggs AO CSC**  
**Secretary**

Ref: EC24-000158

Senator Maria Kovacic  
Senator for New South Wales  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [Senator.Kovacic@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.Kovacic@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 19 January 2024 to the Chief Executive Officer of Services Australia and I regarding the upcoming 2023-24 Community Affairs Additional Estimates hearing. I appreciate the advance notice provided to officials to assist in our preparation for the hearing.

I provide my assurance that the Social Services Portfolio will come prepared to answer the questions set out in your correspondence, where possible. For those matters listed which are better described as an indication of themes that questions may relate to, as always officials will use their best endeavours to respond to Senators on the day.

With regard to your request relating to housing and homelessness matters, responsibilities are shared between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Treasury. Questions relating to the Housing Australia Future Fund and Help to Buy program are best directed to Treasury officials during the Economics Legislation Committee hearing as these matters fall within Treasury portfolio responsibilities, as are general questions on the state of the housing market. Further, in relation to Social Housing, if the questions relate to the Social Housing Accelerator this also is a portfolio responsibility of the Treasury.

I have referred your request relating to the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT) and claims relating to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) including data breaches, fraud, data and the NDIS claims process to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) as these matters fall within NDIA operational responsibilities. In regards to your request relating to the NDIS Sustainability Framework, we advise that responsibilities are shared between DSS and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and so I have also shared your request with PM&C.

I have copied this letter to the Chair of the Community Affairs Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of Services Australia, Mr David Hazlehurst.

Regards

25 January 2024