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

Via email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator

Thank you for your invitation to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Michael Gunner MLA, to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs' inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Streamlined Governance) Bill 2019. Your invitation has been referred to me, as the Northern Territory Minister for Disabilities.

The Northern Territory supports the progress of the Streamlined Governance arrangements under the NDIS Act. It is noted that the amendment to the wording of section 127(4D) provides for clarity in regards to the power of the Commonwealth Minister to appoint a National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Board member without a majority agreement of states and territories.

The Commonwealth Department of Social Services has confirmed that this amendment does not invest a new power in the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. However, the Northern Territory would continue to expect that an appointment to the NDIA Board was not made contrary to the majority of states and territories having formally responded to advise that an appointment was not supported.

Once again, thank you for your invitation.

Yours sincerely

NATASHA FYLES

16 AUG 2019