Please consider this email a formal submission by me to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012.

The current disability system has many problems that need to be addressed.

It only works as long as we (the parents and family members of those with a disability) are there to carry the burden. When we're out of the picture, then it fails miserably, leaving the person with the disability vulnerable, ostracized, and incapable of leading even a half decent life, let alone having an opportunity at a fulfilling one. Moreover, there is currently no effective means of matching an intellectually disabled person with job and life opportunities that would help both the person and the community.

The main features of the NDIS that will make a difference to the community are:

More employment of people with disability and less reliance on social welfare, People with a disability can plan their lives and pursue their goals and dreams, Older parents and families will not worry what happens when they can no longer provide support

The most important services for the NDIS to provide are:

Life-skills, Support for families and carers, Flexible in-home/outside home respite

I support the introduction of the NDIS.

I see it as a means of ensuring that people with a disability can be secure in their lives after their parents/carers can no longer look after them. I am a member of the sandwich generation, with a parent with dementia and a son with autism. Knowing that, once I can no longer care for my son, he will be able to continue to live with dignity and support will be a huge relief for me, as I cannot guarantee that I can put aside enough money to see him properly looked after him when I'm gone.

I agree for my submission to be made public

Regards,

Professor Chris Dubelaar