

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012
Date: Thursday, 17 January 2013 11:20:37 AM

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.

Not applicable

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

Ensure support and equipment is available when needed, People with a disability can choose the types of support to use, The ability to receive services when needed and in the way that suits the person

The most important services for the NDIS to provide are:

Support for families and carers, In-home care and domestic assistance, Flexible in-home/outside home respite

I support the introduction of the NDIS.

Because as I am a professional working in the Rehabilitation area of health for many years, I know what gaps there are and how difficult it is to get the assistance to allow people to remain living in their own homes. The current system is onerous, managed by an organisation which is not answerable to any of the key users, very slow to assess people's needs (they only meet several times a year to consider applications for assistance), and only a few lucky people are granted the funding they need to stay at home. Many people miss out on this funding and many young people have to go to aged care nursing homes. And many older Australians could also be supported in their own homes if there was enough funding.

As I understand it, the other states are not even as well off as WA in this area.

I agree for my submission to be made public

Regards,

Ms Karen Smith