

National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Public Hearing – 25 July 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Question reference number: IQ24-000127

Question asked by: Hollie Hughes

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 33

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 31 July 2024

Question:

Senator HUGHES: Correct me if I'm wrong—I don't have it in front of me—but the human rights areas that were covered didn't include employment opportunities. What focus will the agency be placing on ensuring that plans and these assessments are encouraging and supportive of people who want to undertake employment?

Ms Shannon: I'm not quite sure I follow your question.

Senator HUGHES: Senator Steele-John and I have talked about this. He may have more in his office in front of him. Some of the principles that were outlined with regard to human rights, people with disability and employment had not been included. It could have been the explanatory memorandum.

Ms Shannon: Maybe it's the statement of compatibility with human rights?

Senator HUGHES: That could be it.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: It was a previous draft of the bill.

Senator HUGHES: There was no reference to employment opportunities or access to employment.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: No, there wasn't.

Senator HUGHES: I wondered whether or not we had seen some improvement or some movement there. A lot of frustration has been shared yesterday and previously about people wanting support so they can participate economically, yet that not forming part of it.

Ms Shannon: I'm happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

The initial Bill introduced to the House of Representatives on 27 March 2024 included references to specific United Nations Conventions on the Rights of People with Disability (Convention) articles under section 10 (Definition of NDIS Support) which did not expressly reference employment.

Section 10 was amended as part of Government amendments that passed the House of Representatives on 5 June 2024. Instead of making reference to specific articles under the Convention, section 10 now generally references Australia's obligations under the Convention including work and employment.

The NDIS continues to fund supports in employment for participants who need extra help to pursue their employment goals.