

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Public Hearing – 25 July 2024
NDIS Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No.1) Bill 2024
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
National Disability Insurance Agency

Topic: Confidentiality Agreements

Question reference number: NDIA IQ24-000029

Question asked by: Jordon Steele-John

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page: 49

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

Question:

Mr Swainson: The Participant Reference Group is one of the groups that we are engaging with through our co-design process. Certainly, to the best of my knowledge and on the information that I have, non-disclosure agreements are not required of that group to participate in the process administered by the NDIA. I just want to be very clear about what we're talking about.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you take on notice for me the groups that are involved in the co-design process and which, if any, of them require NDAs or deeds of non-disclosure in order to be members of those groups or to participate in any of the functions of those groups?

Ms Shannon: Yes, we can do that.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: It looks like you're receiving some new information.

Mr Swainson: We'll take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

There were 6 co-design groups established to support the Reform for Outcomes work.

Each group included National Disability Insurance Scheme participants, family members or carers recruited via Participant First and the Participant Reference Group (PRG), members of the Independent Advisory Council (IAC), Disability Representative and Carers Organisations (DRCOs) and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) staff.

Participants recruited via Participant First, including the PRG, signed confidentiality agreements specific to the working group. Members of the IAC signed confidentiality agreements at the commencement of their IAC term, but did not sign an additional agreement specific to their involvement in the working group.

DRCOs and NDIA staff did not sign confidentiality agreements.

The NDIA has also on occasion requested all working group participants sign confidentiality agreements to participate in specific briefings on Scheme integrity and fraud matters.

The NDIA is currently reviewing the approach to confidentiality agreements and conflict of interest declaration in confirming the current program of co-design work.