



Contribution to the NDIS Review conducted by Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.  
May 2023.

# Attaining universal inclusion of all people who need the support of the NDIS.

A summary.

## **1. Exclusion of people who aren't 'disabled enough'.**

When it comes to hearing loss the bar for access appears far too high. People with a "moderate" hearing loss are extremely impacted by their hearing loss and unable to participate in the community without hearing assistance yet the severity of their disability goes without support as it is described as only a moderate disability. Eligibility should not be based solely on an average hearing threshold level.

## **2. Children**

The NDIS needs to ensure it invests in children with hearing loss intensively early (not transactionally), followed by understanding the changing needs for children with hearing loss as they enter compulsory schooling.

## **3. Remove the demand to prove each year that a permanent disability hasn't disappeared.**

## **4. A need to appropriately pitch NDIS services to Indigenous peoples.**

## **5. A need to address the relatively low representation of CALD peoples.**

Congenital hearing loss is up to three times higher among Australians born in regions such as Africa and the Middle East compared to those born in Australia.

## **6. NDIS supports cease when a person enters institutions.**

If a participant becomes a prison inmate, they will lose NDIS supports at a time that such supports are probably most needed in their lives.

## **7. The gross unfairness of excluding people from the Scheme who acquire a permanent life-altering disability after their 65th birthday.**

There are many self-funded retirees who do not have high levels of superannuation and they struggle to fund the hearing services they need. It is vital that the NDIS eligibility criteria be reviewed so that it is targeted to the broader ageing population who need assistance but are not in a position to fund these services themselves.

**8. The interfaces with mainstream sectors are critical to the success of the NDIS, given the Scheme's defined goal of supporting inclusion and participation of people with disability in all areas of the community.**

Mainstream services like health, education, and transport, etc. work together with the NDIS but it will take champions in every government department and agency to raise all boats.

**9. Trust**

Finally, there is the matter of a fragile trust to be addressed: an image (perhaps unfairly) of an officious and remote bureaucracy that preys on participants' vulnerabilities. Memories are still sharp from the infamous Robodebt scheme.