



**The Hon Stuart Robert MP  
Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme  
Minister for Government Services**

Ref: MC19-002095

Mayor David O'Loughlin  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor 

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 August 2019 regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Morrison Government is backing Australians with disability, their families and carers and is absolutely committed to making the NDIS deliver for people with disability. We will continue to ensure the NDIS is fully funded by building a strong economy and delivering a balanced budget.

I can provide the following responses to the resolutions passed at the 2019 National Assembly of Local Government.

**Resolution 73**

The NDIS provides funding to participants so they can exercise choice and control over the supports they access and who provides those supports.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) reviews the NDIS Price Guide annually and I am pleased to advise that effective 1 July 2019 the NDIS Price Guide and Support Catalogue 2019-20 has significantly increased NDIS price limits in real terms, including the following changes:

- general price increases and specific increases for therapists, attendant care and community participation;
- the introduction of a Temporary Transformation Payment;
- increases to remote and very remote loadings;
- updates to travel, non-face-to-face services and cancellation billing policies; and
- updates to Assistive Technology and Home Modifications.

The combination of these measures will inject an additional \$1.6 billion, including \$570 million from indexation into the NDIS market in 2019-20 to encourage sustainable and innovative services that increase choice for NDIS participants.

### **Resolution 73A**

The NDIS already has a range of measures to ensure robust and innovative supply of disability supports in remote parts of Australia through:

- higher levels of funding for participants;
- higher price limits for disability supports in remote areas along with flexible arrangements for providers to recover travel costs; and
- publication of market data to highlight demand for disability supports in specific locations.

Following the 2019-20 Annual Price Review the NDIA has increased the remote and very remote loadings on price limits from 20 per cent to 40 per cent, and from 25 per cent to 50 per cent respectively effective 1 July 2019.

The Government has also recently announced a package of measures to support new providers to enter the NDIS market and also help existing NDIS providers sustain or expand their services, including:

- the NDIS Demand Map, which projects local demand for disability services under the NDIS;
- the Boosting the Local Care Workforce website, which provides resources for providers to adapt to the scheme;
- \$5.6 million for the first round of Transition Assistance Funding to support businesses to transition to the NDIS and create more jobs in the disability and aged care sectors, particularly within regional, rural and outer metropolitan areas across Australia. The outcomes of the first round were announced on 14 August 2019 with a further funding round to open later this year; and
- the \$45.6 million Jobs and Market Fund, which funds projects addressing collective market and workforce challenges in the NDIS. The first round of funded projects was announced on 7 August 2019 with 16 projects sharing in a total of \$10 million in funding.

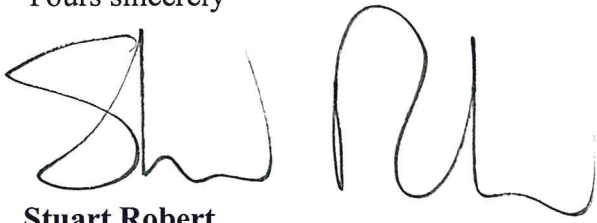
The NDIA launched its Rural and Remote Strategy 2016-19 in March 2017 and is now reviewing its effectiveness. The strategy focuses on enabling quality engagement, greater service delivery opportunities and leadership to ensure the successful delivery of the NDIS in rural and remote communities across Australia. Further information can be found on the NDIS website:

[www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/strategies/rural-and-remote-strategy](http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/strategies/rural-and-remote-strategy)

In addition, the NDIA and the Government are conducting the NDIS Thin Markets Project to develop strategies to address supply gaps in thin (undersupplied) markets in the NDIS and ensure participants have access to the supports they require. Consultation has included an online survey and submissions, workshops and interviews across 26 locations in Australia. The outputs of the project will include a range of options for addressing thin market challenges, including for rural and remote areas and a roadmap for developing and delivering practical interventions in thin markets.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by 'R' and 'B'.

**Stuart Robert**

17 OCT 2019