**Home and Living consultation submission**

**Name:** Jane Anne (WA)

**Date and time submitted:** 9/9/2021 1:02:00 AM

**How do you identify:** A family member, friend or carer of a participant or person with disability

# **Do you talk to people about how you would like to live?**

Yes

## **If not, why not?**

* I’m happy with my current arrangements:
* I don’t think I have the money to make changes:
* I don’t know where to start:
* I’m comfortable thinking about it on my own:
* I don’t want to talk about it:
* Other – please describe:

## **What kinds of things do you talk about / would want to talk about?**

* Who I want to live with: Yes
* Where I want to live: Yes
* What supports the NDIS funds: Yes
* What options are available: Yes
* What other people have done: Yes
* Not sure: No
* Not Applicable: No
* Other – please describe: No

# **Where would you like to get information to think about where and how you live?**

* Internet: No
* Social media: No
* Service providers: Yes
* Support Coordinator / LACs: No
* NDIS / NDIS website: No
* Friends and family: Yes
* Other participants / peers: No
* Government websites: No
* Peak bodies / advocacy groups: No
* Other – please describe: No

# **What information, learning and resources could we create to help you choose your home and living supports?**

* Examples of what options other people with disability might have chosen: No
* Someone to talk through my options with me: No
* Information that I can take away and read on my own: No
* Information given to providers: Yes
* Opportunities to talk with NDIS representatives on new options: No
* Other – please describe: No

# **How helpful is the NDIS website to find information on home and living supports?**

I've never looked

## **What would improve the helpfulness of home and living information on the website?**

I want to discuss options with people who know me and who I trust and who know what funding is available to me. Without the funding to support me, I can't have any options I would choose.

# **Would it be helpful if your informal supports (e.g. friends, family and carers) knew more about how and where you want to live?**

No

## **How can we work better with your informal supports to help them know more?**

No answer recorded

# **If your NDIS funding was more flexible, would you purchase different support/s for your home life than what you have now?**

No answer recorded

## **Such as?**

# **Who helps you to organise your NDIS supports?**

* Formal support, such as a support coordinator / LAC / NDIA planner or delegate: Yes
* Informal support, such as family / friends / carer / peer support networks / mentors: Yes
* No one / I self-manage my funds: No
* Other – please describe: No

## **How helpful is using formal supports?**

Very helpful

## **How helpful is using informal supports?**

Very helpful

## **How helpful is using other supports?**

No answer recorded

# **Have you ever used peer support networks or a mentor to find / access NDIS supports?**

No

# **Of the following options, who would you be most likely to use to help you implement your plan?**

* Peer support networks: Unlikely
* Mentors: Likely
* Specialised home and living support coordinators: Neutral
* Support coordinator / LAC: Very likely
* NDIA planner / delegate: Very unlikely
* Family and friends: Extremely likely
* Other – please describe: Extremely unlikely

N/A

# **How would you like to encourage providers to offer new and innovative service options?**

* Pricing incentives for providers: Yes
* Recognition of innovative providers: Yes
* Newsletters: Yes
* Showcases: Yes
* Participant reviews and ratings: No
* Other – please describe: No

# **Appendix D (see consultation paper) lists options for actions we could take to improve home and living in the NDIS. What other ideas would you add to Appendix D?**

The new rules for home and living, creating bands of funding is unhelpful and reduces choice, in fact, participants are being forced into congregate living rather than being able to choose an independent option if the NDIS reduces funding to fit a band. In any case the NDIS creates a barrier by ensuring that the delegates who make the decisions about what funding is required have no contact with either the participant nor the advocate. The planner informed me that he is not involved at all in the decision made for the final funding for the plan. This defeats the purpose of giving people any choice.

# **Do you identify as:**

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander? No
* From a culturally and linguistically diverse background? No
* Living in a rural and remote area? No
* LGBTIQA? No
* Having a psychosocial disability? Yes

# **Is there something you would like to see in a home and living policy specific to your response in previous question 12?**

Capacity building funding is essential to allow these participants to live safely in accommodation of their choice. For people living in the family home or independently (I am responsible for two people), it is insufficient to fund home supports without the allied health professionals involved. the load on ageing parents is high without the input of the therapists. Therapists prescribe programs for support staff and families to follow. They need to monitor and adapt physical and independent living skills programs.

# **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

In my experience of supporting two family members, the capacity building funding for occupational therapy and physiotherapy has been inadequate in both situations. The notion that funding for psychology can be taken care of by Medicare is flawed. Even a gap of $28 per visit is beyond some participants. More importantly, disability organisations understand the issues facing their consumers better than community based psychologists. Continuity of services is paramount. This is not possible, currently, for people being funded by the NDIS. Worse, neither planners or delegates understand the problems this causes participants, so they do not include the necessary funding, the outcome of which is that choice becomes a pipe dream that is not achievable safely. The NDIS is not interested in how people want to live, it is interested in how little funding is deemed necessary by faceless people who do not know the individuals concerned.