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Mr Bob Buckley
Convenor, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4)
convenor@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for meeting with Christine McClelland, Lou O'Neil and myself on 30 January 2018. At this meeting, I committed to writing to you and I apologise for the delayed response.

The NDIA is dedicated to enhancing the experience for children, families and service providers in their interaction with the NDIA and I value the opportunity to consult with you about how the Agency can better support children with Autism.

As you may be aware, the NDIA is currently undertaking a review to consider and identify enhancements to the ECEI tailored pathway. The outcome of the review will also consider and address issues raised by the Joint Standing Committee on the ECEI approach.

The NDIA expects that ongoing improvements to enhance the delivery of the ECEI approach will continue to be implemented as the Agency develops its understanding of work with children and families who are accessing the ECEI pathway and the outcomes which they are achieving.

In respect to the concerns you raised in the meeting about the Autism Advisor service, I am informed that whilst HCWA and Better Start individualised early intervention support will progressively transition to the NDIS, other aspects of these programs will continue to operate until June 2019 in some states and jurisdictions.

Autism Advisor Services and Better Start Registration and Information Service (RIS) continue to operate in some states and jurisdictions until transition to the NDIS is complete. However, as you rightfully identified, these services are no longer available in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

I have asked my executive assistant to contact you to organise our next meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you again in July 2018.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Faulkner', is located below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Chris Faulkner
General Manager
GM Operations ACT/NSW

22 February 2018