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Mr Bob Buckley  
Convenor  
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia  
27 Fairbridge Cres  
AINSLIE ACT 2602

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email of 3 July 2019 to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon. Stuart Robert MP, about the Minister's recent media release titled "*Children to get faster access to NDIS supports*". The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

On 26 June 2019 Minister Robert announced initiatives to address the significant wait times for access and planning, that children less than seven years of age and their families are experiencing in some areas. Since the Minister's announcement, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has been working closely with its Early Childhood Partners to implement the initiatives and commence rolling these out across the states and territories.

Stakeholder feedback is highly valued and will continue to support the NDIA in the delivery of a nationally-consistent, high quality approach to supporting children with developmental delay or disability and their families/carers. In June 2018, the Australian Government established the Autism Advisory Group (AAG) to provide advice, guidance on stakeholder engagement and robust feedback to the NDIA on matters relating to Autism Spectrum Disorder. The AAG includes autism experts, service providers and people with lived experience of autism.

The establishment of the advisory group reflects the NDIA's commitment to working with stakeholders and experts who support people with autism. The advisory group consists of members from the Co-operative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC), Amaze, Autistic Self-Advocacy Network - Australia and New Zealand (ASAN), Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorder (AABASD) and the Australian Autism Alliance.

The AAG is committed to genuine and broad engagement with the autism community. I understand you have had previous meetings with various NDIA officials and encourage you to consider using the AAG as an effective channel through which Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4) can liaise with the NDIA.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact Mr Matthew Bennett, NDIA Assistant Director, Strategic Advisory Autism via email at [matthew.bennett@ndis.gov.au](mailto:matthew.bennett@ndis.gov.au).

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Baigent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mark Baigent**  
Branch Manager  
Early Childhood Services

4 September 2019