



GPO Box 700
Canberra ACT 2601
1800 800 110

ndis.gov.au

Mr Bob Buckley
Convenor
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia

via email: convenor@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley,

Thank you for sending through your media release.

As Mr Peter de Natris – the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Early Childhood Early Intervention Special Advisor – advised you by phone on 15 May 2018, the day you released your press release, a document was incorrectly uploaded to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) website. The error was rectified as soon as it was drawn to the Agency's attention. The Agency apologises for any confusion that has been caused. We are investigating how and why this occurred.

The Agency has not made any changes to the NDIS access requirements for autism. Any person with autism who is deemed eligible for the NDIS is continuing to receive the reasonable and necessary supports they need to achieve their goals.

The claim in your media release that senior officials from the NDIA refuse to meet with people with autism and their representatives is simply untrue. Communication of this nature occurs frequently and consistently. Senior officers of the NDIA are in regular contact with organisations who represent people with autism, and have ongoing, productive relationships with these groups.

In relation to yourself, a meeting of this kind occurred as recently as January, with another meeting scheduled for the end of May.

You can rest assured the NDIA understands and is committed to communicating with people with autism, and meeting the needs of eligible participants.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Nugent, AO
Chairman
National Disability Insurance Agency

Robert De Luca
Chief Executive Officer
National Disability Insurance Agency

18 May 2018