

Subject: Re: the NDIS's war on autism [SEC=OFFICIAL]
From: Bob Buckley - A4 Co-convenor <convenor@a4.org.au>
Date: 6/09/2023, 6:56 am
To: "Falkingham, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Falkingham@ndis.gov.au>

Hi Rebecca

Will you publicly disassociate the NDIS from these reports?

Bob Buckley
Co-convenor, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4)
website: <http://a4.org.au/>

A4 is the national grassroots organisation advocating for autistic people, their families, carers and associates. A4 is internet based so that Australians anywhere can participate in and contribute to A4's advocacy for autistic people, their carers and allies.

A4 recognises and respects the traditional owners, elders past, present and emerging, of lands in Australia. Sovereignty was never ceded.

Recipients of correspondence from A4, especially politicians and government officials, are all subject to A4's policy on unanswered questions: see <http://a4.org.au/node/1419>.

"The first step in solving any problem is recognising there is one." Jeff Daniels as Will McEvoy in The Newsroom.

On 5/9/23 8:55 pm, Falkingham, Rebecca wrote:

Thanks Bob. Ms Ranjan is doing a fellowship at ANU and is on leave from the NDIA. She does not represent the views of the agency and we are in contact with her to ensure she is clear in any future work with ANU that her views are her own.

From: Bob Buckley (Co-convenor) <convenor@a4.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:30:01 PM
To: Falkingham, Rebecca <Rebecca.Falkingham@ndis.gov.au>
Subject: the NDIS's war on autism

Hi Rebecca

I saw this in the media recently ... <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/bloated-ndis-encourages-providers-to-keep-children-in-care-experts-20230904-p5e1gk> ... more NDIS staff daemonising autism.

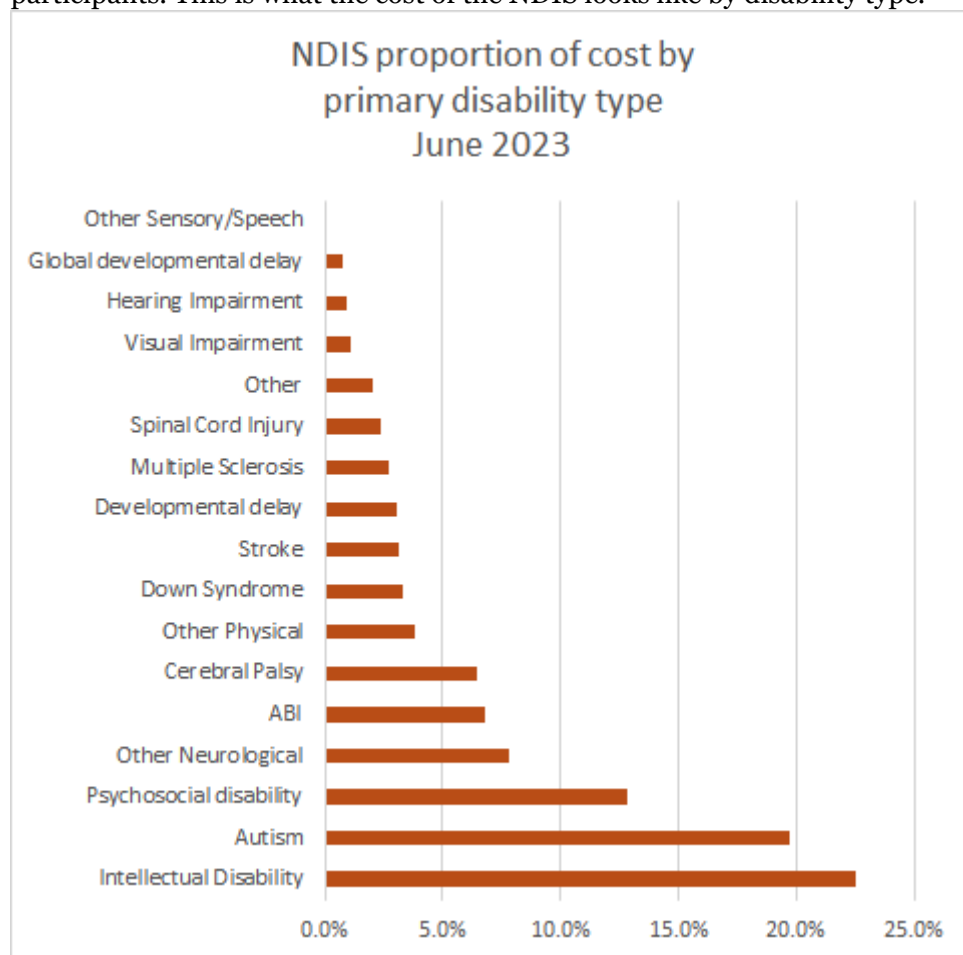
The basic facts are wrong here. Yes, there may be some justification for concern ... with 8.4% of children under 7yo in the NDIS. But just under 20% of those are diagnosed Autistic according to the latest NDIS data.

The *NDIS Act 2013* defines Developmental Delay (DD), a condition that the law in Australia created. According to the latest NDIS data, DD, with GDD, are the primary disability type for 69% of NDIS participants under 7 yo (58% and 11% respectively). Under 20% of NDIS participants under 7yo are Autistic (it's a very different story in the next age range).

Many Autistic children are frequently suspended or expelled from child care and other early childhood services. They are diagnosed Autistic because those services do not meet their needs.

This is more evidence of the NDIS's war on autism.

The AFR article has a misleading picture. It's worried about costs the present a figure of the number of participants. This is what the cost of the NDIS looks like by disability type.



Some of the highest cost NDIS Plans for autistic people also involve Intellectual Disability (and vice versa) but the data we're shown does not indicate that.

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Bob Buckley

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“The first step in solving any problem is recognising there is one.” Jeff Daniels as Will McEvoy in *The Newsroom*.

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