



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Reference: MC20-161556

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

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email dated 9 October 2020 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding supporting Australians with autism. The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I understand that the Department of Social Services wrote to you on 20 and 29 October 2020 with regard to the Expert Reference Group to implement the National Guideline for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Australia. Regarding the new National Disability Strategy, I understand officials from the Department of Social Services met with you, as well as representatives from the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and the Disability Advocacy Network Australia, on 18 September 2020 about the development of an issues paper to inform work to align with the new Strategy. I also understand the Department will continue to engage with you on this matter in the coming months.

As the issues you have raised are the responsibility of the Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator the Hon Ann Ruston, and the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon Stuart Robert MP, I have referred your correspondence to their offices for consideration.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Morton', written in a cursive style.

BEN MORTON

27, 11 / 2020