



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

MC24-026291

8 July 2024

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

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 June 2024 to the Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, regarding the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) conducting early reviews of National Disability Insurance Scheme Plans and Statements of Participant Supports (SOPS). I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Attorney-General.

You have inquired about the legality of NDIA's early review of SOPS resulting from an agreement under section 42C of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*. Please note that the Attorney-General's Department cannot provide you with legal advice. Different legal advice providers operate in all states and territories. Contact details and information about levels of legal information each service provider offers can be found on the Attorney-General's website at www.ag.gov.au/legal-system/legal-assistance-services.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding the reported conduct of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT), as well as the potential conduct of lawyers involved in the types of matters you describe. Consistent with the independence of the AAT from government, the AAT is responsible for its own operation and management. The process for providing feedback or making a complaint in relation to the AAT is outlined in the Service Charter and published on the AAT's website. If you are not satisfied with the AAT's response to your complaint, you may wish to contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman. Further information about making a complaint is located on the Commonwealth Ombudsman's website.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Attorney-General's attention. I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Ng'.

C Ng
Director
Administrative Review Taskforce