



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

MC22-004985

Mr Ron de Gruchy OAM
President
Western Australia Self Funded Retirees Inc
rdegruchy@bigpond.com

Dear Mr de Gruchy

Thank you for your emails of 14 and 27 June 2022 to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Minister for Government Services, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, on behalf of Western Australia Self Funded Retirees and the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association (WA), concerning access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for people aged 65 and over. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Minister.

When the NDIS was set up, the focus was addressing care and supports for people with disability aged under 65 that, prior to the NDIS, were inadequate. The Productivity Commission recommended in 2011 that people should be under the age of 65 to apply for the NDIS, as those aged 65 or older could be supported through aged care, or the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) that was to be established by the states and territories. The NDIS is not intended to replace services provided through the health or aged care systems. As a result, the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* limits the NDIS to persons who apply before 65 years of age and meet all other eligibility criteria. States and territories have not established the NIIS as was originally proposed.

While entry to the NDIS is not possible once aged 65 or over, existing NDIS participants who reach this age have the option of continuing to receive their supports through the NDIS or choosing the aged care system. Over time, this will result in an increasing number of people aged 65 and over with significant and permanent disability receiving support through the NDIS.

The Government has committed to review the NDIS design, operation and sustainability, bringing forward a planned review of the scheme. The Government will consult on terms of reference that will consider all available evidence, and look at benefits as well as problems inside and outside the NDIS.

People aged 65 or over with a disability who are not NDIS participants can receive care and support from the Commonwealth aged care system through My Aged Care, in addition to health care and services available through the general health care system. My Aged Care includes help for older people to remain living independently in their own homes.

The Government is committed to fixing the aged care crisis, and has committed to investing an additional \$2.5 billion to ensure older Australians receive the aged care they deserve. The Government is reviewing approaches to implementing the recommendations from the

Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The Australian Government Department of Health has been consulting extensively with aged care stakeholders, including those with a disability who are ineligible for the NDIS, on possible reforms for in-home aged care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Yeend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being more prominent than the last name "Yeend".

Julie Yeend LVO
Branch Manager
NDIS Governance, Policy and Legislation

29 June 2022