



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

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# **NDIS Reform Community Catch Up**

**Canberra ACT**

**Wednesday 15 May 2024**



# Overview

The Department of Social Services (DSS) held a community catch up so the people attending could ask questions about NDIS reforms with the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Hon Bill Shorten MP, on Wednesday, 15 May 2024, at the QT Canberra it was also livestreamed to a virtual audience.

## Speakers included:

- Hon Bill Shorten MP, Minister for the NDIS
- Matthew Swainson, Chief Counsel for the NDIA
- Mike Phelan, Acting NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner

## Event goals:

- Provide information about the NDIS reform
- Answer questions from the community

## Opportunities for Participants:

- Voice their concerns
- Ask questions for clarification
- Give input on the reform process

Minister Shorten explained that the overarching goal of any NDIS reform is to put people with disability back at the centre of the NDIS and to create a sustainable NDIS for future generations, together.

## Key points from the discussion

The NDIS reforms aim to improve the scheme's consistency, equity and sustainability while staying true to its original purpose.

Key points discussed:

- **Legislation** – the legislation introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament on 27 March sets up a framework for future implementation. It is 'enabling legislation' consistent with the NDIS Review recommendations. It is essential to a more personal, fair and sustainable NDIS
- **Decision Making** – this is an important step in making sure all people with disability are receiving fair and consistent decision through a more transparent decision-making framework.
- **Making the NDIS Stronger** – through greater clarity on how you access the NDIS, and a new planning framework that is centred around participants needs receiving a 'reasonable and necessary budget'. Greater clarity for participants that NDIS Supports are individual to each participant and the supports that they need. And additional quality and safeguard provisions to expand the powers of the NDIS Commission to mitigate the risk to participants of exploitation or coercion from another person.

## Questions answered

Participants asked questions live from the floor using microphones in the room. Minister Shorten, NDIS Chief Counsel and Acting NDIS Commissioner answered questions about the NDIS reforms directly from the audience.

Key topics included:

- Concerns about the future of plan management and support coordination
- Questions about inefficiencies within the NDIA and how they will be addressed
- Inquiries about wait times for assistive technology approvals
- Discussion about the need for better early intervention services
- Questions about the registration process for providers and its potential impact on costs

## Closing remarks

Minister Shorten emphasised that the NDIS has made significant progress but acknowledged that there are still so much more to do. He stressed the government's commitment to improving the NDIS consistency, equity, and sustainability all while maintaining its core purpose.

The Minister highlighted the importance of continued consultation and co-design with the disability community as reforms are developed and implemented.

He also noted that this community catch-up is part of an ongoing consultation process, encouraging continued input from the disability community.

There's a lot to do, this is just the start, but we want to do it together, with you, for you.