

1 April 2021

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC
Minister for NDIS
PO box 369
BELMONT WA 6984

[By email: senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Reynolds,

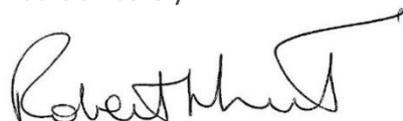
Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). With your previous experience on the Joint Standing Committee regarding the initial implementation and administration of the NDIS, you will be well placed to ensure the NDIS and its participants reach their full potential.

As you acquaint yourself with this new portfolio, Dietitians Australia would like to draw your attention to the following:

- **Independent Assessments** – the proposed toolkit fails to recognize the presence or risk of malnutrition and the corresponding impact on function, further increasing the risk of avoidable deaths. (See submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS- Independent assessments)
- **Policies and training for NDIA planners** – there remains the ongoing issue of significant variability between planners when allocating funding for Dietitians and nutrition support products in NDIS plans with some delegates inappropriately recommending participants rely upon Medicare to meet this need.
- **Building capacity within dietetics and allied health** – changes are required to current NDIA policy to facilitate and support training of students through the supervised provision of NDIS services, in turn addressing workforce shortages.
- **Governance and accountability for nutrition in supported independent living** – there is need for the development of legislation and policy to support optimising nutritional intake, healthy eating, food safety and supported decision making in group homes including staff training and accountability mechanisms (governance).

I would like to meet with you to discuss the role dietitians play in supporting NDIS participants to increase their skills and independence to live a connected and fulfilling life.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer