



The Hon Tony Abbott, Leader of the Opposition
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CONFIRMATION
OF FAX

By facsimile: 6277 8562

17 August, 2012

Dear Mr Abbott

RE: THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is not just a good idea, it is a vital and necessary reform.

The NDIS is a social good carried for two generations in the minds and hearts of people like Dr Doug Everingham, the Rev Brian Howe, and more recently the businessman-philanthropist Bruce Bonyhady. It is a Scheme which, from the outset was energetically and skilfully championed by the now Minister, Bill Shorten. But above all it is a Scheme with the mark of greatness because it has been championed by every parent of someone with a disability who ever spoke up for a better and more dignified life for people with disabilities through the provision by government of services and support which meet their individual needs.

In Australia, it has been the families of people with disabilities who have relentlessly, persistently and unswervingly highlighted the disgraceful situation of people with significant disabilities and the lack of services and support that impoverish and marginalise them from life in the mainstream.

In 2005 family carers wrote submissions to the Inquiry into the CSTDA on benchmarking disability services, using a 3 tier formula. They again wrote to the Better Support for Carers Inquiry asking for the same. People with disabilities have languished on the fringes of society long enough and the threadbare carpets of governments, bureaucrats and politicians under which the challenges faced by people with disabilities have been hidden for decades, must be lifted and finally shaken.

In the interests of ensuring that the NDIS is polly-proof we are writing to both you and the Prime Minister, requesting that you each sign a National Compact placing the National Disability Insurance Scheme above politics. We are also requesting both major parliamentary parties sign the Compact to deliver a fully funded NDIS based on the Productivity Commission's funding and design recommendations.

Only with bi-partisan support will the NDIS become a reality. The NDIS does not belong to any one political party, it belongs to all the people of Australia.

We look forward to a timely response from you as to whether you will accede to our request.

Yours faithfully

Maree Buckwalter, President
Carers Alliance