

# Protect access to essential nutrition and dietetic support for people with disability

Dietitians Australia is calling on the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to abolish the price cuts that will limit participant access to life-sustaining dietetic and nutrition support.

The price cuts will severely impact access to support from Accredited Practising Dietitians for people with disability. This will make it harder for participants to receive the nutrition support they need for their essential function, to live independently, and to avoid unnecessary hospital visits.

These cuts will hit hardest in regional and remote communities and for participants with complex needs.

We are standing with people with disability and the dietitians who support them. These cuts cannot go ahead.

### What these changes mean

If these cuts come into effect on 1 July, people with disability may face:

- Increased risk of complications including swallowing difficulties, choking, malnutrition, dehydration and preventable hospital admissions
- Less choice and control over the dietetic and nutrition support they need
- A loss of independence and functional capacity
- A greater challenge in accessing the support of a dietitian, with fewer services available
- Longer wait times or no service access in some areas, particularly rural and remote communities
- Greater reliance on the hospital system or less appropriate supports

More than a quarter of dietitians providing NDIS services say they plan to reduce or stop delivering them if pricing does not reflect the real cost of care. They also indicate that servicing regional and remote participants will be where the cuts have to be made first.

## Take action today

#### Sign the Dietitians Australia petition

We are calling on the Australian Government to:

- Abolish the NDIS price cuts for dietetic services
- Ensure every person with disability can access the essential, personalised nutrition support they need for their function
- Adjust dietetic service pricing in line with real service costs, including current CPI and WPI rates
- Restore travel budgets

#### Sign the petition now

#### Share the campaign

Help us get this message in front of more people.

- Post the petition link on your social channels
- Support our allied health colleagues, sign petitions and advocacy efforts from the <u>APA</u>, <u>OTA</u> and <u>SPA</u>
- Use the campaign hashtag #NutritionSupport #NDIS #DietitiansAustralia
- Encourage your community and colleagues to get involved
- Write a letter to your MP (download the template provided on this page)
- Tag your local MP in your social media posts

• Share your story and case studies showing how these cuts will impact you. Get in touch with our <u>Media Manager</u>.