

1 April 2021

The Hon Bill Shorten MP
Shadow Minister for NDIS
PO Box 214
MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

By email: bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister Shorten,

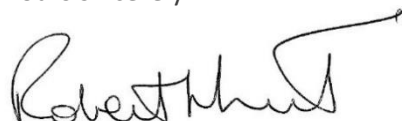
As Shadow Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) you are uniquely placed to advocate for people with disability and NDIS participants to reach their full potential.

Dietitians Australia advocates for the rights and needs of people with disability to safe and enjoyable food and fluids, and access to nutrition and dietetic supports and services to meet their needs. The disability sector is undergoing rapid reform and we would like to draw your attention to these pressing issues:

- **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