

Media Release

1 November 2019

Disability Leaders call on government to invest “NDIS underspend” on people with disability

Illawarra Disability Alliance members will meet this afternoon with Federal Members Sharon Bird and Stephen Jones to give them a signed letter to take to parliament expressing their serious concerns about the government underspend in NDIS.

“This is money that the taxpayers of Australia have invested in disability supports and making Australia a more inclusive and accessible place for everyone” said Nicky Sloan, CEO of The Community Industry Group. “There is much to be done and the members of the IDA feel strongly that it is just not appropriate that we are diverting these funds back to balance the books.”

The letter points out that it was known that the NDIS would not be fully rolled out in the 2019 financial year meaning the government would benefit from this perceived “underspend” as it has been referred to by Treasurer Josh Frydenburg in his recent budget address.

The IDA letter states:

“The \$3.78 billion underspend is not acceptable and should be invested in supporting people with disability and their families and communities around Australia as it was intended.

Accessible and affordable transport is a huge and growing problem for the implementation of the NDIS in all areas of Australia with regional and remote areas particularly badly affected.

The moral and ethical approach for the government of Australia to take when blessed with this NDIS underspend is quite plainly to invest in these areas of need.”

The letter is signed by leaders of the members of the Illawarra Disability Alliance (IDA):

Community Industry Group, The Disability Trust, The Flagstaff Group, Greenacres, Community Gateway, Northcott, Life Without Barriers, Disability Services Australia, Care South, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, The Cram Foundation, Interchange Illawarra, Essential Employment, Illawarra Multicultural Services, Interchange Shoalhaven, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and WEA Illawarra.

Photo opportunity – IDA members and Federal members: 2:00pm at Stephen Jones’ office Shop 244 Stockland Shellharbour, Lamerton Cres, Shellharbour City Centre.

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For media enquiries, further information or to receive a signed copy of the letter please contact Nicky Sloan at the Community Industry Group nsloan@cigroup.org.au or 0407933279

About the Illawarra Disability Alliance

The Illawarra Disability Alliance is a group of not for profit disability specific providers working together collegially and collaboratively to deliver better outcomes for people with disability in the local community.

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