

**Submission for :**  
**Vic Parliament Family and Community Development**  
**Committee inquiry into Disability abuse**

I have concerns, as do many other carers, about the new charges that services providers are now charging in comparison to that of their funding packages. I have written to a number of departments about this, but they just pass the buck to someone else. This seems to be financial exploitation and abuse by services providers. The service providers seem to have taken advantage of some of the grey areas within the NDIS framework that allows this to happen. There are many areas that have been neglected dealing with this concern, and needs to be investigated into urgently.

I have outlined my concerns below:

I am writing to you about concerns with my Intellectually Disabled son's Individual Support Funding package, this package was for support hours needed. I have been informed by his service provider that as from 1/7/2015 there was an increase in their charges and that his package may not be enough for him to continue with his level of support. I contacted the Department of Human services to enquire if their half yearly indexation will cover to increase in charges. I was informed that it would not. This would mean that my son would have to decrease the number of support hours or pay the new costs out of pocket. This new increase of charges will affect all people receiving these funding packages.

These new charges seem to have been implemented by service providers before the NDIS comes into full swing, and I feel that this needs to be addressed. The services providers seem to have seen the projected amount of money for the average NDIS packages, (approximately between \$35,300.00 and \$36,750.00), and they have increased their charges, to take advantage of this. This would be ideal, if the NDIS was completely rolled-out. Unfortunately, this is not so.

In my son's case his funding now falls short by about \$1100.00 or 31 support hours for the period of 1/7/2015 to 30/6/2016. Which means that we would have to pay out of pocket this amount, plus possibly more, for each year until the NDIS is rolled-out in our area. Predicted date: 2018. This is a considerable amount of money. My son is only one of many more that is affected by this shortfall.

Also, there are the new charges that have been introduced in the day centres and other financial areas of funding, that I have not expanded on in this submission. So, there is a significant amount of financial stress, abuse, and exploitation placed on the clients and carers.

I would that this submission is a public document. But any reference to myself or my son, (names and contacts), be withheld from publication. I would also like the opportunity to appear before the committee, as I have some documentation that is reliant to this submission. I have withheld these documents so as they maybe presented at the committee.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]