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Amaze welcomes Federal Government's commitment to NDIS Reforms

Leading autism peak Amaze today welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to implementing recommendations of the Tune Review, which should deliver much needed improvements for participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"The NDIS has been game-changing but is not perfect. There have been significant challenges and deficiencies, some that have been actioned today, some that still need to be addressed" said Amaze CEO Fiona Sharkie

"Autistic people make up the biggest group in the NDIS, yet we continually hear of low understanding of their needs. It is absolutely critical that the scheme works well for autistic people." Ms Sharkie said.

Acting on the Tune Review – including establishing the Participant Service Charter and Guarantee and the Service Improvement Plan will deliver critical and long awaited improvements.

The Tune Review found the NDIS is generally working well for adults with a physical disability, but not so well for others.

Many autistic people are dissatisfied with their NDIS experience: low level of autism understanding among NDIS planners, lack of information and support for participants to navigate the planning process; inadequate funding; and difficulty in accessing services are challenges constantly reported on by autistic participants Ms Sharkie said.

"Building autism proficiency of planners needs to be a top order priority. Amaze is calling for a specific autism and neurodevelopmental stream within the NDIS and dedicated training in autism for all NDIA and partner staff. This would go a long way to improving outcomes for autistic participants."

"Our youngest community members must also be prioritised in future reforms. Intensive and comprehensive support for autistic children, starting as young as possible, is key to improving life outcomes. Providing automatic access to the scheme for all autistic children will provide the best return on investment for the NDIS in the long run."

- Autistic people represent the largest diagnostic group in the NDIS: 31% of participants have autism of their primary diagnosis, and a further 5% of participants have autism as a secondary diagnosis. In the younger age groups, the lion's share of participants are autistic: 65% of participants aged 7-14 years and 54% of those aged 15-18 years. There are approximately 143,000 autistic participants.
- Amaze is a member of the NDIA's Autism Advisory Group

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