

(Address)

To the NDIS Planner,

Carer Statement: Claire

We are writing to provide you with information about our experiences as Claire's parents with the view of broadening your understanding of her lifestyle, her needs and her wishes.

Claire has high level needs which require a lot of attention from us both. Full details are contained in her current work plan. She is, without doubt, very loved. Our intention is to support Claire in our family home for as long as we are able. She is now, and always will be, a key person in our family and we want her to always remain so.

However, we are both growing older as time passes and the energy that we need to invest in Claire's daily care can be both difficult and relentless. Claire requires daily support. We take responsibility for many tasks, despite the substantial assistance that is provided from various agencies. This includes manual assistance and management of her behaviour. Claire can be vexing at times when her demands become insistent. Usually these events occur when she wants something and is unable to have it immediately. Her behaviour is inflexible on certain days when she has to stay home. She protests all day because she does not like staying at home through the daytime.

Both of us now have health issues which impede on our capacity to support Claire. (Mum) experiences depression and arthritis and (Dad) suffers from osteoarthritis and multiple muscular-skeletal damage which have required a range of surgical procedures. These days, he depends on prescribed medications for substantial pain relief. With the help of this medication, he is able to walk with mechanical support. This, however, is limited to short distances. (Mum) also has various stress-related health problems that present themselves during high stress incidents. This becomes a problem when Claire's behaviors escalate or become relentless.

Clearly, the manual work that is needed to support Claire's effects (Dad's) life and limits it in significant ways. This is equally so for (Mum). Stressors also play a role in our ability to continue to provide constant care for Claire. We say this with a great deal of sadness.

While we may both be affected by the status of our health, we retain a strong desire to keep our daughter at home with us for the maximum time possible. We therefore ask that you take these matters into consideration when developing Claire's plan and ensure the support she requires is included. It would be of particularly help to us and also to Claire if coordination of supports was factored into her plan. This could relieve us of many duties that arise out of Claire's complex needs and, in doing so, reduce our stress levels.

Thank you for taking the time to take these facts into consideration.

Mum & Dad