

MEDIA RELEASE



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NDIS changes will shift costs and responsibilities to carers

Carers will have no choice but to fill the gap created by proposed NDIS changes, and many are already depleted and exhausted, according to Carers Australia's latest submission.

Commenting on the submission to the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026, Carers Australia CEO Joanna Cave said eligibility, reassessment and support changes will push costs and responsibilities on to carers, and greater reliance on them risks accelerating burnout.

"This is yet another policy change that fails to consider the effect on family and friend carers, ignoring the role they play in the lives of people with disability. Carers are effectively NDIS administrators, managers and advocates for the people they care for. Without them our health and care systems would be on their knees, yet policy changes are made without considering carers, while relying on them to pick up the slack, often to the detriment of their health and financial wellbeing," she said.

"While we recognise the importance of securing the NDIS for future generations, and support reforms improving the integrity and sustainability of the scheme, not considering the impacts on carers risks implementing poor policies, undermining participant and carer outcomes and imposing higher costs on taxpayers in the long run.

"There are changes that could make the NDIS market work better, slow cost growth, deliver better value for taxpayers and have less impact on people with disability and their carers. Provider overcharging is a one example and a concern for many Australians. Evidence shows some NDIS providers set prices at or near price caps, contributing to cost blowouts."

Ms Cave said carers and those they support also need longer to assess the changes and their flow on effects and a longer consultation period for carers and those they care for to have their say.

"These are some of the most significant changes to the scheme since it was introduced and it is important for people with a disability, as well as their families and carers, to have time to consider these changes and provide feedback on what they will mean for them. We also want an assessment of the impact of the proposed changes on carers. The Bill should not be passed at this stage given the lack of consultation and the significant consequences of the proposed changes."

Carers Australia is also concerned that some of the proposed changes, including those to slow the growth of the Scheme and target fraud, risk undermining the intent of the NDIS.



“Evidence tells us that taking an individualised and lifetime view of participants’ needs can reduce long-term support requirements, making it critical to the financial sustainability of the scheme, and the wellbeing of family and friend carers. Just dropping supports will have the opposite effect,” Ms Cave said.

Other issues raised by Carers Australia in the submission:

- Automated administrative assessments may not adequately manage the complexity of cases and supports.
- Added pressures on parents – the Bill reinforces that parents are expected to provide ‘substantial care and support’ to their children, including supervision, personal care, transport and behavioural support, blurring the boundary between ordinary parenting and disability-specific supports.
- The importance of bridging and continuity arrangements where participants are moved between systems and/or confirmation that replacement systems are operational before eligibility and access changes are made.
- Including carers in the co-design and evaluation framework planning arrangements.

Carers Australia’s [submission: NDIS-Amendment-Bill-2026 for-CA-website draft-3.pdf](#)

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About Carers Australia and the National Carer Network

Carers Australia is the national peak body representing Australia’s carers, advocating to influence policies and services at a national level. The National Carer Network, which consists of Carers NSW, Carers ACT, Carers Victoria, Carers Tasmania, Carers SA, Carers WA, Carers NT, and Carers Queensland, deliver a range of essential carer services across states and territories.