**ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS AUSTRALIA MEDIA RELEASE 14.06.18**

**Allied Health Professionals warn of unworkable reforms to the NDIS**

The Australian Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has been told proposed reforms to the scheme could render it unworkable.

The Chair of Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA), Mr Cris Massis, told the Committee a proposed tiered fee structure, with NDIS participants being categorised according to the complexity of their condition, was too problematic to be implemented. The tiered fee structure was a key recommendation of the Independent Pricing Review of the NDIS, conducted by McKinsey and Co.

“Neither National Disability Insurance Agency nor McKinsey has explained who will determine a participant’s complexity or how it will be measured,” Mr Massis said. “It is for this reason the introduction of the tiered fee structure, originally scheduled for 1 July 2018, was put on hold.

“There is a real risk that participants may be categorised incorrectly, and that those who are required to determine complexity may not recognise that a person’s needs can change depending on their circumstances,” Mr Massis said.

The proposed fees threaten not just the market readiness, but the very viability of the NDIS.

Feedback form a number of professions who are members of AHPA has indicated significant disquiet with the proposed pricing structure, indicating that provision of services may be unviable which immediately reduces the all-important choice and control for the client when services are not available.

Simply looking at an hourly rate does not give the full picture of what that covers. An allied health professional is paid for face to face client time but not for report writing, liaison with other professionals or advocacy on behalf of the client. A one hour appointment may well be three to four hours actual work.

AHPA was appearing before the Joint Standing Committee’s inquiry into market readiness for the provision of services under the NDIS. The Committee is due to table its report on 23 August.

Allied health professionals, like occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dietitians, audiologists, orthotists and prosthetists enable their clients to participate in meaningful, productive activities and maintain quality of life.

They provide services such as physical and mental health therapy, nutrition support, assessments for assistive technology and home modifications, and key disability supports and services.

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***About Allied Health Professions Australia***

*Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is a collegiate body consisting of 20 national allied health associations members and a further 6 organisational friends with close links to the allied health sector. AHPA’s members collectively represent over 100,000 allied health professionals who work across the primary, acute and tertiary sectors in Australia.*

*AHPA believes that it is vital that allied health professionals have the opportunity to work alongside the medical and nursing communities to help shape and implement the health care system of the future. Allied health professionals represent almost a third of the country’s health care workforce and deliver over 200 million health services annually.*

*Allied health professions provide crucial support for people experiencing disability, chronic illness and a wide range of other health issues. Access to allied health services continues to be significantly lower in rural and remote regions leading to poorer health outcomes. Only by ensuring that allied health services are fully accessible across the country will we ensure that Australia has an integrated, comprehensive health care system which delivers world class health care.*

*Please visit* [www.ahpa.com.au](http://www.ahpa.com.au) *for further information.*