



7 October 2021

NDIS Act Review Consultations
Department of Social Services

By email: NDISConsultations@dss.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Proposed NDIS legislative improvements and the Participant Service Guarantee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the proposed NDIS legislative improvements, including the new Participant Service Guarantee.

Empowered Communities East Kimberley (ECEK) is a collaboration between 25 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) based in the East Kimberley, WA. The initiative is supported by neutral backbone organisation, Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation (BBY). Our membership includes Aboriginal-led health and community service providers who play both formal and informal roles in working alongside Aboriginal people with disability who are part of the community. ECEK has articulated a shared vision of Aboriginal-led development in the East Kimberley in our [Regional Development Agenda](#).

Further information about Empowered Communities East Kimberley and our ACCO members is available on our [website](#).

ECEK supports the intention of the NDIA engagement principles and service standards set out in the Participant Service Guarantee, which provide qualitative and reportable standards that ensure the NDIA remains accountable for the way it works alongside people with disability in delivering the NDIS.

The principles would be strengthened by ensuring that engagement with Aboriginal people with disability and their families, carers, and communities is done with the goal of self-determination and respect for language and culture at the centre.

Under the engagement principle of empowerment, ECEK would like to emphasise the importance of service standards meeting the needs of Aboriginal people with disability in regional and remote areas such as the East Kimberley. This includes active and appropriate engagement with Aboriginal people with disability in the East Kimberley, as well as their families, carers, and communities. ECEK would be happy to work with the Department to grow the availability of Aboriginal community controlled NDIS service providers, as they are the best and most culturally appropriate organisations to work alongside Aboriginal people with disability in the East Kimberley.

Any further development or review of the NDIS as it relates to Aboriginal people with disability should be undertaken as codesign with Aboriginal people with lived experience of disability as experts, as well as their families, carers, and communities.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission further with departmental officials as the review of the draft legislation is undertaken.



To discuss this further, please contact me by email on ceo@bby.org.au or phone (08) 9169 2272.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Hawker", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Christy Hawker
Chief Executive Officer