

Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

June 2, 2014

Mr Paul Davis
Paul.Davis2@Halliburton.com

Dear Paul

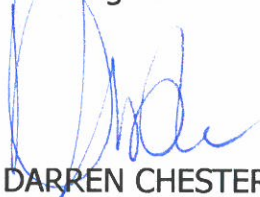
I refer to my correspondence dated April 14, 2014 in which I advised that I had made representations to the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews, MP.

I have received a reply to my representations from the Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, regarding supported accommodation for the Gippsland area, and I enclose a copy for your records.

You will note from Senator Fifield's response that the matter has been referred to the Victorian Minister for Disability Services & Reform, the Hon Mary Wooldridge, MP, as this issue remains the responsibility of the State Government until the full National Disability Insurance Scheme is rolled out.

I will contact you again as soon as I receive a response from the State Minister.

Kind regards



DARREN CHESTER
The Nationals





SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence
Member for Gippsland
PO Box 486
SALE VIC 3853

Dear Mr ^{Darren} Chester

Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2014 to the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Social Services, on behalf of Mr Christos Iliopoulos, Chief Executive Officer of Freedom Housing, about providing supported accommodation in the Gippsland area. Your letter was referred to me as the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities. I have met with Christos on several occasions.

As you know, in Victoria, from 1 July 2013 the first stage of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in the Barwon area commenced for residents living in the local government areas of the City of Greater Geelong, the Colac-Otway Shire, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the Surf Coast Shire. By July 2016, all residents with significant and permanent disability in the Barwon area – about 5,000 people – will be covered by the scheme.

The NDIS will be progressively rolled out in other areas of Victoria so that by July 2019 all eligible residents will be covered. The plan for this rollout will be developed by the Commonwealth and Victorian Government over the coming year. More than 100,000 Victorian residents with significant or permanent disability are expected to benefit from the full roll out.

As you know, until the full scheme is rolled out, disability support remains the responsibility of the Victorian Government. For this reason, I have referred your letter to the Hon Mary Wooldridge MP, Victorian Minister for Disability Services and Reform for consideration.

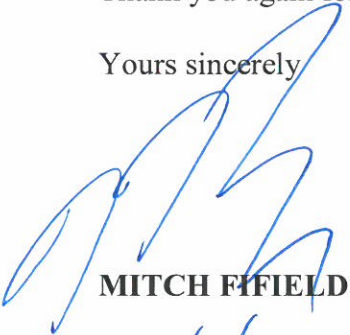
The NDIS will offer participants choice and control over their support. This includes in the area of accommodation support where, over time, participants will be able to choose where they live and who provides their support. This could include Freedom Housing properties.

The National Disability Insurance Agency is currently developing its guidelines on when it will provide funding towards accommodation costs and how it calculates its contribution towards accommodation.

The contribution that the NDIS will make will reflect the additional costs for meeting the needs associated with the person's disability. Participants will be expected to meet their own everyday living expenses such as grocery and utility bills, and the rent or board that would ordinarily be incurred.

Thank you again for writing on behalf of Mr Iliopoulos.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIELD
26/5/14