



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

MC20-015795

Mr Bob Buckley
convenor@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your email of 28 September 2020 to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon Stuart Robert MP, regarding the Expert Reference Group (the Group) to implement the National Guideline for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Australia (the Guideline). The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

As outlined in my email to you dated 28 August 2020, in response to your email to the Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, the Group will primarily be engaging with professions involved in the assessment and diagnosis of autism to support the national implementation of the Guideline.

The Australian Autism Alliance has been invited to nominate a representative to the Group because it partners with a number of autism associations, including A4. As outlined in my previous response, the expectation of a Group representative is that they consult within their networks to bring representative views to the Group to ensure the voices of people with autism are heard and to inform the implementation of the Guideline across health professions.

As discussed at our teleconference of 18 September 2020, that included my colleague, Mr Stephen Moger, Branch Manager, Disability Policy Branch, the department is eager to involve people with autism in key policy and program discussions, and will continue to consult with stakeholders within the autism advocacy sector, including A4.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Hawke'.

Sarah Hawke
Branch Manager
Participant Outcomes Branch

20 October 2020