

## Media release - Mind Australia

11 June 2026

### **NDIS reforms must not unintentionally disadvantage people with psychosocial disability, Mind Australia tells Senate inquiry**

Today, Mind Australia appeared before the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee to call for targeted amendments to the NDIS Amendment Bill 2026 to ensure people with psychosocial disability are not unintentionally disadvantaged further in accessing essential disability support.

Mind – one of Australia’s largest providers of community mental health and psychosocial disability services – was among the few specialist disability providers, and the only psychosocial services provider invited to appear before the Committee’s inquiry into the NDIS Amendment Bill 2026. Mind was represented by Board Chair Professor Allan Fels AO, Board Director Tim Heffernan, CEO Gill Callister PSM and Executive Director Strategy, Engagement and Housing Transformation, Nicola Ballenden.

Professor Fels told the Committee that while Mind recognises the need for a sustainable Scheme, several proposed legislative changes risk having a disproportionate impact on people with psychosocial disability and requires further attention before the Bill proceeds.

“We understand the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Scheme and recognise the pressures driving this legislation,” Professor Fels said.

“However, there are specific elements of the Bill that are likely to create unintended barriers for people with psychosocial disability. At a minimum we hope these concerns can be addressed through some targeted amendments, without undermining the broader reform agenda or the key principles of the NDIS.”

In its evidence, Mind expressed concern that proposed changes relating to the assessment of *functional capacity*, *permanency* and *treatment* could have unintended consequences for people with psychosocial disability.

“The Bill introduces three provisions that, taken together, risk excluding people with psychosocial disability. Not because that is the intention, but because there are some psychosocial disability specific considerations that must be built into the framework. These are currently absent,” Ms Callister said.

“Without amendments, we risk seeing more people with psychosocial disability spending longer periods in hospitals, living in inappropriate housing, or experiencing homelessness.”

Mind also highlighted that around 65,000 Australians<sup>1</sup> with a primary psychosocial disability currently access the NDIS. Contrary to perceptions that this cohort has

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<sup>1</sup> [NDIS.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

contributed to the Scheme's cost pressures, people with psychosocial disability remain underrepresented in the NDIS compared with original projections – just 8.5% of NDIS participants have a primary psychosocial disability, compared with the Productivity Commission's original projection of 13.9%.<sup>2</sup>

“People with psychosocial disability did not create the Scheme's current cost pressures and they should not disproportionately bear the human cost of the spending cuts,” Professor Fels said.

“We are committed to working constructively with government to ensure the NDIS remains sustainable while continuing to provide access to the supports that people with psychosocial disability need to live meaningful lives in their communities.”

**ENDS**

### **About Mind Australia**

Mind Australia is one of the largest providers of community-managed psychosocial services in Australia with a range of residential, mobile outreach, centre-based and online services.

Alongside our subsidiaries One Door Mental Health and The Haven Foundation, we provide individualised, evidence-based and recovery focussed support to more than 25,000 people experiencing mental health challenges in Australia every year.

For more information visit [www.mindaustralia.org.au](http://www.mindaustralia.org.au)

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1: [NDIS.gov.au - Explore data \(2026\)](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

2: [Productivity Commission.gov.au - Disability Care and Support \(2011\)](https://www.productivitycommission.gov.au)

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<sup>2</sup> [Productivity Commission.gov.au](https://www.productivitycommission.gov.au)