

# NDIS Amendment Bill 2026: Priorities for Children and Families

ACaFSA represents more than 70 organisations supporting children with developmental concerns, delay and disability, and their families. We work across the disability, health, education and community sectors and support thousands of families and services collectively.

**The message among our communities is clear: Australian children and families are struggling.**

We support the objective of a sustainable NDIS. However, aspects of the proposed reforms under the Securing the NDIS for Future Generations Bill 2026 (The Bill) risk reducing flexibility, increasing service fragmentation, and creating unintended barriers for children and families with complex, changing needs.

The Bill must implement best-practice early childhood intervention between the NDIS, foundational supports, education, health and community services. We outline how below.

## ACaFSA's Key Recommendations

### 1. Prioritise safety through supports where children live, play and learn

Delivering services in everyday settings, such as a child's home and education environments, supports the safety and welfare of children and families. The Bill lacks detail on where the services under the proposed reforms will be delivered. We urge governments to work collaboratively with services and families to deliver foundational supports where children live, play and learn.

### 2. Protect all children's access to support

Children's needs are dynamic and cannot be understood through functional measures alone.

Government should ensure:

- Children do not lose access to supports as a result of reform measures.
- Reassessment processes remain flexible and responsive to changing needs and family circumstances.
- Eligibility decisions are based on supports that are genuinely accessible, affordable and culturally safe.

### 2. Recognise complexity

Planning and policy must account for the realities facing families experiencing intersecting challenges, including disability, family violence, trauma, disadvantage, cultural and linguistic barriers, and geographic isolation.

Complexity should be explicitly recognised in legislation, policy and planning processes.

### 3. Invest in the workforce

The success of the reforms depends on a skilled and sustainable disability and early childhood intervention workforce. The current disability and early education workforces already struggle with retention and have not yet received the necessary training and support to deliver best-practice early childhood intervention.

Government should implement:

- A dedicated national workforce strategy.
- Nationally consistent early childhood intervention standards.
- Pricing arrangements that reflect the true cost of delivering quality services.

### 4. Maintain flexible funding and assessment processes

Fixed funding periods and reliance on standardised functional assessment tools risk missing needs and undermining best-practice early childhood intervention.

Funding and assessment arrangements must remain flexible and responsive to children's changing developmental needs and family circumstances.

### 5. Protect community participation supports

Community participation is central to the purpose of the NDIS and critical to child development, family wellbeing and long-term outcomes.

Reducing supports for community participation will likely shift costs onto families, health systems and crisis services while increasing family stress and social isolation. A more sustainable approach is targeted reform rather than broad reductions.

### 6. Best practice governance and implementation

- Establish a risk-based, sector-informed **registration and regulation framework** that recognises child and family services, minimises administrative burden, supports compliance costs, and strengthens quality safeguards.

## Australian Child and Family Services Alliance (ACaFSA)

- Ensure the **Technical Advisory Group** complements existing advisory structures and includes diverse representation from children, families, the workforce, First Nations and CALD communities, people with lived experience, and father-inclusive practice.
- **Align pricing reforms** with the true cost of delivering quality early childhood intervention services, while addressing regional and remote market challenges and remaining responsive to children's evolving support needs.
- Balance robust fraud prevention and record-keeping requirements with **flexibility** for families facing barriers, and communicate changes clearly through accessible formats.

**ACaFSA stands ready to work in partnership with government to ensure these reforms deliver equitable, effective and sustainable outcomes for children and families.**

Sally Moore – ACaFSA Co-Chair

Morgan A. Fitzpatrick – ACaFSA Co-Chair

sally.moore@eciavic.org.au

morgan.fitzpatrick@koorana.org.au

## ACaFSA Members Endorsing this Submission



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