

## Senate Inquiry into the NDIS Amendment Bill (9 June 2026)

### Day 1 Summary

A clear message emerged from Day 1 of the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearings: stakeholders support improving the NDIS, but many believe the Bill goes too far in concentrating power and reducing participant safeguards.

Key concerns raised included:

- Expanded ministerial powers with limited independent review
- Potential impacts on participant choice and control
- Risks to people with high support needs if essential supports are restricted
- The need for stronger accountability and consultation

**PDA's esteemed Ambassador Dr Dinesh Palipana** emphasised the importance of participant choice, particularly regarding support workers from both registered and unregistered providers:

*"We should all have choice and control about who touches our body when showering and receiving intimate care."*

He also warned that expanding ministerial powers raises important philosophical and governance concerns. Finally, he believes that whilst the NDIS is one of Australia's greatest achievements, any changes should be carefully and thoroughly considered.

**Inclusion Australia** supported the intent of reform but argued the Bill lacks sufficient safeguards and independent review mechanisms. They also highlighted significant concerns about the unintended consequences certain changes to the legislation may have on Australians with Intellectual Disabilities.

**Protect Our NDIS Alliance** delivered powerful lived-experience evidence, highlighting that supports such as Activities of Daily Living and Community Access are not optional extras, they are essential for health, dignity, and community participation.

One witness stated:

*"Without this funding I cannot exist and I would end up in hospital."*

The dominant theme of the day was clear: reform must not come at the cost of participant rights, choice, independence, and the supports that enable people with disability to live and participate in their communities.