



6 December 2024

The Hon. Bill Shorten MP  
Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [minister.shorten@dss.gov.au](mailto:minister.shorten@dss.gov.au)

Dear Minister Shorten,

**Re: Reinstatement of Funding for Music Therapy and Art Therapy under the NDIS**

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Association of Psychologists Inc to express our concern regarding the decision to cease funding for music therapy and art therapy as therapeutic supports under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

As psychologists, we have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that these therapies can have on individuals with disabilities. Music therapy and art therapy are not merely recreational activities; they are evidence-based interventions that facilitate emotional expression, improve cognitive functioning, and enhance social skills. These therapies provide a unique avenue for individuals who may struggle with traditional forms of communication, offering them a voice and a means to connect with the world around them. For many NDIS participants, these therapies are beneficial and essential components of their therapeutic regimen.

Furthermore, many participants do not have funding under the proposed alternate funding category or are not eligible for funding, effectively blocking their access to these therapies. We propose that funding for music therapy and art therapy be reinstated and allocated from

the NDIS therapeutic supports/capacity building budget, ensuring that all participants who need these supports can access them without financial barriers.

We understand the need for fiscal responsibility and the challenges associated with managing the NDIS. However, we believe that the long-term benefits of music and art therapy far outweigh the costs. By investing in these therapies, we are not only supporting the immediate well-being of NDIS participants but also promoting their long-term independence and integration into the community, thus reducing their reliance on other funded supports.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider this decision and reinstate music and art therapy funding under the NDIS. Doing so would demonstrate a commitment to providing holistic, person-centred care that addresses the diverse needs of all Australians with disabilities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and provide any additional information that may assist in your decision-making process.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tegan Carrison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tegan Carrison

Executive Director

Australian Association of Psychologists