Occupational Therapy Australia

No OTs, No NDIS

Guide to making a submission on the NDIS Future Generations Bill



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No OTs, No NDIS: Guide to making a submission on the NDIS Future Generations Bill

Make a submission by Friday 29 May

The Australian Parliament is considering the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026.

OTA is preparing a submission on the Bill. We are asking participants, families, occupational therapists, providers and supporters to send their own short submissions.

Hearing directly from people with lived and professional experience helps Parliament understand how NDIS supports work in real life, and strengthens the collective message of the No OT, No NDIS campaign.

A submission does not need to be a formal report. A short email in your own words is enough.

The Inquiry website also provides guidance on using speech-to-text to make a submission. You can refer to this page for more information: Making a submission – Parliament of Australia

1. How you can take action

Email your submission to: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Cc OTA: policy@otaus.com.au

Subject line: **Submission: NDIS Future Generations Bill 2026**

Please send your submission before **Friday 29 May 2026.**

When you cc OTA, it helps us understand the issues being raised and, where appropriate, use de-identified examples to strengthen our advocacy. We will not identify you or share your story publicly without your permission.

2. What to focus on

The Committee is looking for submissions that address the Bill, not general comments about the NDIS. Your submission will be stronger if it connects your concern or experience to one or more of the changes being proposed.

The Bill proposes significant changes to NDIS eligibility, planning, funding and governance.

OTA is particularly concerned about the proposed funding cuts to participants' budgets, from 1 October 2026, including:

- a **10 per cent reduction** to capacity building daily activity supports

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- a **50 per cent reduction** to social, civic and community participation supports.

These supports help people build skills, maintain routines, stay connected to community and participate in everyday life.

OTA is also concerned that the Bill creates a broader mechanism that could be used to reduce or restrict other supports in future, including therapy supports.

3. OTA's initial key concerns and asks

OTA is still finalising its submission to the Committee. The points below reflect the key issues OTA is currently considering and may help you decide what to include in your own submission. You do not need to use all of these points. We suggest focusing on the issues that matter most to you and writing them in your own words.

Key concerns

Below, we make some suggestions about topics that you can include in your submission. These are based on the key aspects of the Bill and its potential impact that OTA are concerned about.

Functional capacity and assessment design

The Bill may allow decisions about people's supports to be shaped by rules and frameworks, rather than high-quality assessments conducted by appropriately qualified professionals.

You may want to write about:

- why good assessments matter
- the difference professional judgement has made for you or someone you support
- what happens when assessments don't reflect real world needs.

Use of automation, algorithms and standardised tools

The Bill allows greater use of tools and systems in decision-making.

You may want to write about:

- concerns about "tick-box" or automated decisions
- why human judgement is essential when assessing complex needs
- the risks of decisions being made without proper professional oversight.

Recent media coverage of the assessment tool used for older people through the Aged Care system highlights the potential risk of taking a similar approach for participants in the NDIS.

Ministerial powers, automation and system-wide funding reductions

The Bill expands the Minister's power to limit or reduce whole categories of supports.

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You may want to write about:

- concerns about funding decisions being made at a system level
- why supports should be based on individual need, not broad rules
- the importance of transparency and accountability.

Risk of narrowing access to the Scheme

While the Bill moves away from diagnosis-based access, it may raise eligibility thresholds in practice, which is likely to limit access for children aged 0-8, people with psychosocial disability, people with fluctuating, degenerative or complex conditions, and people whose needs are not easily captured by standardised assessments.

You may want to write about:

- potential impacts on children, people with psychosocial disability, or fluctuating needs
- concerns about people losing access before alternatives are ready, such as Thriving Kids or Foundational Supports
- why early and ongoing support matters.

Restrictions on reassessment and review

The Bill limits unscheduled plan reassessments to "exceptional circumstances".

You may want to write about:

- times when your needs changed and reassessment was essential
- risks of delays or barriers to review
- why flexibility is important for safety and fairness.

Capacity building and participation supports – human rights implications

The Bill proposes significant cuts to these supports.

You may want to write about:

- how these supports help with independence and participation
- what would happen if they were reduced or removed
- impacts on families, carers and community inclusion.

Governance, ministerial powers and pricing

The Bill gives the Minister more control over rules, funding and pricing.

You may want to write about:

- the importance of independent, evidence-based decision-making

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- why sustainable pricing matters for access to quality supports and appropriately qualified professionals, such as occupational therapists
- concerns about reduced transparency.

OTA's initial asks

While OTA's submission is still being finalised, it is likely to recommend that the Parliament:

1. include OTA in relevant Government reference and advisory groups to provide expert input into assessment design, pricing and implementation of NDIS reforms;
2. recognise existing AHPRA regulation of occupational therapists to avoid duplicative compliance requirements under NDIS integrity and registration reforms.
3. ensure functional capacity and support needs assessments are conducted by appropriately qualified allied health professionals, including occupational therapists;
4. prohibit fully automated eligibility or funding decisions and require human oversight of any assessment tools or algorithms;
5. Remove or substantially constrain ministerial powers to impose broad or class-wide funding reductions across support types, including therapy supports, and ensure that all decisions remain based on individual need, clinically informed assessment, and transparent, non-automated processes.
6. ensure the Bill does not operate to narrow access to the Scheme, particularly for children and people with complex or fluctuating needs;
7. retain practical pathways for reassessment and review;
8. reverse proposed reductions to capacity building and participation supports, recognising their role in upholding participant rights and long term outcomes;
9. limit broad ministerial powers that reduce transparency or individualised decision making;
10. ensure pricing and integrity reforms support a sustainable, clinically governed allied health workforce.

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4. Write your submission

You can use this simple structure:

Who you are

For example: an NDIS participant, family member, carer, occupational therapist, provider, supporter or community member.

What you are concerned about and how it links to the Bill

You could write:

> *My concern relates to the part of the Bill that would [reduce capacity building supports / reduce social and community participation supports / restrict plan reassessments / change eligibility / allow future funding reductions across groups of supports].*

A short example, if you can

You might include how occupational therapy, capacity building or community participation supports have helped, what would happen if access was reduced, or what you want Parliament to understand.

What you want Parliament to do

Finish by letting Parliament know what you want them to do in your own words.

For example:

> *I want Parliament to change the Bill to ensure that there are no reductions to participants access to occupational therapy, capacity building supports or community participation supports.*

You can also encourage the Committee to adopt Occupational Therapy Australia's recommendations and express support for the No OT, No NDIS campaign.

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5. Before you send

Submissions are usually published online if accepted by the Parliamentary Committee who are conducting the Inquiry. Do not include personal details or information you would not want published.

If you want your submission to be confidential, say this clearly in your email and explain why.

Before sending, double check that your submission links your concern or example to the Bill.

Please send your submission before **Friday 29 May 2026.**

Remember to CC in OTA using the email above.

More information

You can find more information via these links:

- Community Affairs Legislation Committee's website
- Legislation factsheet
- Participant FAQs
- Provider FAQs
- Reform timeline
- Bill
- Impact analysis
- Information about the cuts
- FAQs including information about the cuts

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