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Review Board
NDIA
GPO 700
Canberra ACT 2601

via email: APR@ndis.gov.au

2025-26 Annual Pricing Review consultation

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the annual pricing review for the NDIS.

MND Australia is the national peak body for state organisations that support those living with, and impacted by, motor neurone disease (MND). Motor neurone disease (MND) is the name given to a group of neurological diseases in which motor neurons – the nerve cells that control the movement of voluntary muscles – progressively weaken and die. MND is a complex and rapidly degenerative disease requiring specialised multidisciplinary team care. Average life expectancy for people living with MND is 27 months from diagnosis.

The MND State and Territory Associations are NDIS providers and have responded to the online survey. However, there are two key issues that are shared across all the State Associations which we wish to specifically highlight within this short commentary.

- 1. The static NDIS pricing is exacerbating the scarcity of allied health specialists with MND knowledge and expertise.** The pricing guide hasn't risen in 7 years, and last year the price of physiotherapists actually dropped by \$10/hour. Support Coordination (Level 2) has not even had a CPI applied to it for the past six years. While a cost review was conducted, MND Australia argues that it did not compare like for like. The needs of people living with MND are complex; the best support and results are received from allied health professionals who have first-hand knowledge and expertise with MND. This simply cannot be compared to allied health professionals who can see multiple patients in an hour in their consulting rooms, or those who are contracted by insurance schemes to rehabilitate a limited and specific injury. The progressive and extremely debilitating nature of MND means allied health professionals are concerned with the client's current limitations but also how to mitigate degeneration over time. Additionally, worsening functionality impacts basic functioning, psychological state and wellbeing, and social connections. A coordinated, holistic approach must be taken with other specialists, the carer(s) and the family.

MND Australia recommends a pricing review that examines the hourly rates of allied health professionals with expertise in supporting people who are living with MND and other, similarly complex medical conditions.

- 2. The new pricing structure for travel costs is making it even more challenging to provide specialist MND services to a small and geographically dispersed population.** While MND Australia understands that a travel limit of 30 minutes was intended to focus reimbursements on actual professional care, the unintended consequence is that allied health personnel will often no longer travel longer distances, because it is not financially viable for them. In consequence, the thin markets in rural, regional and remote areas are even thinner. This is also an issue for our MND State Associations, as they are not compensated for much of their travel time. The State Associations are committed to providing service to every Australian who is diagnosed with MND, regardless of their geographic location. In Queensland, for example, the State Association supported 278 people living with MND in 2025. Of this number, none of them resided within the 30-minute radius of the MND Queensland office, and many were 2 hours or further away. MND Queensland is therefore losing money on every trip they make to visit the nearly 300 people they support who are living with MND. Each of our State Associations tell similar stories of extensive travel times which remain uncompensated, and therefore erodes their very lean operating margins.

MND Australia recommends that travel time for rural, remote and regional areas is reinstated (covering MM 2-4) to ensure health equity and to support people living with MND regardless of geographic location.

MND Australia would be happy to provide any further information of case studies, or to discuss our submission with the Review Board.

We look forward to reading the report from the NDIS 2025-26 Annual Pricing Review consultation.

Kind Regards,



Clare Sullivan
Chief Executive, MND Australia

