

**Please quote statement from Minister Shorten in full:**

This program highlights some of the inherent contradictions between some entirely registered providers and others that are not registered at all.

Any case studies like these, whether historical or new, are upsetting, deeply concerning and unacceptable.

After 10 years of neglect, our mission is to build back trust by putting Australians with disability back into the centre of the Scheme.

My view is if you are using cruel and illegal restricted practices, you do not belong in the Scheme and should not be providing services.

We have turbocharged the Commission, with \$142 million of new funding– the single biggest funding boost ever for the Commission, which has seen staff tripled to more than 800 and compliance actions increased 10 fold in just one year. But there is much more to be done and my expectations of the Commission and its leadership are extremely high.

More than six years ago, when I was opposition leader, I called for a royal commission into the abuse of people with disability to be established. Long before the Liberals finally got around to introducing it This Thursday, the royal commission will hand down its final report and the voices of people with disability will be heard.

Immediately on getting into government – I established a NDIS review led by Bruce Bonyhady and Lisa Paul, which will report back within weeks with recommendations on how to bring into the light parts of disability that are in the shadows.

My expectations are that both the royal commission and the review will make recommendations to better safeguards NDIS participants and we look forward to implementing their lessons in conjunction with other governments.

***Do you agree there is a high risk of fraud? Are you going to change the method of claims and payments to mitigate this risk?***

Yes, I do. Again, both in opposition and in government I have campaigned to stamp out fraud.

I am absolutely determined to ensure every dollar of NDIS funding goes to the people for whom it was intended – participants with severe and profound disabilities.

We knew the Liberals left the Scheme's back door open to criminals. Labor established the Fraud Fusion Taskforce in October 2022 to stop the rorts and evict the rent seekers from the Scheme.

The Taskforce has increased fraud detection capability, with over a dozen different government agencies working together to detect and prevent fraud against NDIS participants.

Crime deterrents and prevention was bordering on non-existent prior to our election in 2022. We currently have 50 active investigations and 17 prosecutions in progress. There are also 29 active cases of serious and complex non-compliance.

**Is the Government going to put in place a national monitoring system as recommended?**

The Albanese Government has accepted all the recommendation of the Robertson Review.

The states have a major role in overseeing guardians, public trustees and safety regulation. They are crucial and irreplaceable to establishing a national monitoring system.

Put simply, the commonwealth does not have the constitutional power or capacity to do this on its own.

The review was something I pushed to establish after the tragic death of Ann Marie Smith.

We acknowledge the work state and territory governments have done in overseeing visitor programs.

We will continue to working with our state and territory counterparts to unify the work being done to protect people with disability.

**ENDS**