

## **Response**

Irabina Autism Services operated the Severe Behaviour Program from June 2018 to April 2022. The program, modelled on those used widely in the United States, applied treatment plans for behaviours of concern in children with autism, for example where they may harm themselves or others. 18 children under the age of 18 participated in this particular program.

Investigations began in mid-2021 into the program's delivery. Key leaders involved in setting up and administering the program departed the organisation at that time. Since then, the Irabina Board has welcomed the quality and regulatory bodies' investigations (including NDIA QSC, DFFH: the Victorian Senior Practitioner ...). The Board ceased the program in April 2022, but continues to cooperate fully with regulators.

The intention was always to provide the highest level of care and support to children and their families with severe behavioural challenges. Irabina truly regrets if it did not meet this objective and any distress has been caused by these investigations.

In May 2023, Irabina Autism Services ceased operations. Children and families utilising its remaining services at that date were given the opportunity to move to another NDIS registered charity – Aruma – from June 2023.

## **Follow up response**

We'd like to update a detail within the statement we sent to you.

Whilst all other services in the building that *had* housed the Severe Behaviour program ... were ceased in April 2022, the Severe Behaviour program itself was ceased in June 2021. We sincerely apologise for the correction to the timeline.

As an added point, when the program was introduced in 2018, the Board was assured that it was tailored (from [the US] version) to meet Victorian standards.