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## INQUIRY INTO DISABILITY SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2014

Deaf Australia is a national peak body representing Deaf people and we are actively promoting the governments to create a legal instrument recognising deaf people's legal right to use Australian Sign Language (Auslan) as a primary and preferred language.

Western Australian Association of the Deaf is a state peak body representing Deaf people and is a state member organisation of Deaf Australia.

We understand that Amendment Act 2014 looks to include NDIS in the Western Australian's Disability Services Act.

We refer to clause 26G of the Disability Services Act Amendment Bill 2014 that states:

(2) The objectives of the model include –

- (a) providing people with disability with reasonable and necessary supports; and
- (b) enabling people with disability to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their support.

The sub-clauses appear to contradict each other as '*providing ... with **reasonable and necessary support***' and '*enabling ... to **exercise choice and control** ...*'. Appear to be subjective and depending on availability of resources and supports (eg, financial supports) that may negate the person's capacity to exercise choice and control.

For example, a deaf person may need access to sign language interpreters in various settings may be denied due to lack of resources, or that services are unable to cater his/her communication needs due to lack of financial resources.

The Amendment Bill 2014 is unclear as to how disability service providers are registered and are monitored for quality and customer's assurances, this may have been explained elsewhere in the Disability Services Act.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Miers', written in a cursive style.

Kyle Miers  
Chief Executive

2 May 2014