

Submitted by email to AnnualPricingReview@ndis.gov.au

Sunday May 26, 2019 9:51 PM.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in response to the National Disability Insurance Agency's Annual Pricing Review consultation as the General Manager of Policy and Research for the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC).

QAIHC is the Peak Body for 28 Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations (AICCHOs) and has 14 Affiliate members across Queensland. Our members provide culturally appropriate, primary health care services under a *family centred, holistic Model of Care*.

AICCHOs provide community advocacy and undertake work outside the scope of primary health care, such as disability services. AICCHOs are often the first point of contact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and it is for this reason that QAIHC should be engaged in the planning, delivery and reviewing of NDIS-related services in Queensland.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a 1.6% higher prevalence of disability compared with the non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Despite only consisting of 4% of the Queensland population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent 8% of current NDIS participants in Queensland (NDIA, March 2019).

Given the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability in the NDIS, it is essential that service provision is appropriate and funded accordingly. Our members advise us that their communities lack access to culturally appropriate NDIS providers and that the pricing structure is a major barrier to AICCHOs becoming NDIS providers themselves. The *AICCHO Model of Care* recognises cultural needs (for example, the concept of taking the appropriate time to establish a trusting and respectful relationship with the whole family unit and their cultural values) and additional needs of a population with high co-morbidities. QAIHC believes that the pricing model does not consider the additional costs of providing culturally appropriate care, including these requirements.

QAIHC is of the view that adequate pricing must be prioritised and a solution must be urgently found. Our members have recommended the development of an AICCHO economic model for the provision of NDIS services. This could be used to inform NDIA decision making around the need for appropriate funding to the sector and where value for money opportunities exist.

QAIHC acknowledge the NDIA's work in engaging with disability networks to understand how pricing is a barrier of access for service provision and encourage NDIA to engage with QAIHC to develop an appropriate funding structure for AICCHOs.

QAIHC welcomes a meeting to discuss these matters and is available at any time to provide further information.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Young

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Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council

