



Senator the Hon Jan McLucas
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

MC10-017712

23 DEC 2010

Mr Bob Buckley
Convenor
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia
cnvnr@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Bob

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2010 to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, about peak representation for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and funding for a peak secretariat. As the matter you have raised falls within my responsibilities as Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, I am responding to your enquiry.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) manages and administers funds for the National Secretariat Program, an initiative providing financial support for peak bodies to allow them to contribute to government policy and service delivery, and to communicate government information to their membership. This program is reviewed from time to time and currently there are no funds available to support funding to additional peaks. When suitable opportunities become available, they will be advertised in the press and on the FaHCSIA website at www.fahcsia.gov.au.

Currently through the National Secretariat Program FaHCSIA supports a number of peak organisations including Children with Disability Australia which is funded to contribute to government policies about disability issues affecting Australian families and communities, to carry information between government and the community on social policy issues, and to represent constituent views. If you would like to contact Children with Disability Australia, the Executive Officer, Ms Stephanie Gotlib, can be contacted on 03 9815 1094 or by email at info@cda.org.au. Further information regarding Children with Disability Australia may be found on their website at www.cda.org.au.

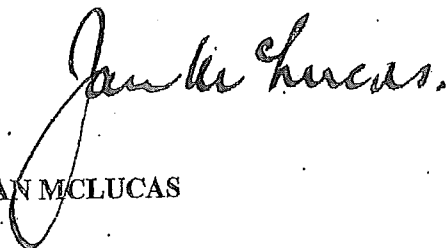
Also, the National Disability Services (NDS) is the Australian peak body for non-government disability services. Through the provision of information, representation and policy advice, NDS promotes and advances services which support people with all forms of disability to participate in all domains of life. NDS offers membership options for not-for-profit organisations in the disability field. Should you be interested in considering collaboration with NDS, please see www.nds.org.au/about/Membership for more information.

Links are also provided on the FaHCSIA website to a range of alternative funding sources for community organisations (see the 'Grants & Funding' tab from our home page www.fahcsia.gov.au) which you may wish to explore.

As part of the Helping Children with Autism package, FaHCSIA has engaged the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders in the development of the National Autism Spectrum Disorder Register and has committed to meeting regularly both face-to-face and via teleconferences to focus on strategic issues.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely



JAN MCLUCAS

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Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET 2010

ACTION: ☒ Reply ☐ NFA ☐ Refer to: _____
☐ For Info ☐ Part-refer to: _____
☐ CC only
☐ Serial Writer

CORRESPONDENT: Buckley, Bob
ON BEHALF OF: _____
SUBJECT: ASD Issues - National Disability
Peak Organisation and National Secretariat

CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3	CATEGORY 4	FOR INFO / NFA
URGENT / VIP / MINISTER	MP / SENATOR / LATE REFERRAL	ORGANISATION	GENERAL PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFERRED FROM: _____

REPLY LEVEL:

Minister for FaHCSIA
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness
Parliamentary Secretary McLucas
Parliamentary Secretary Collins

MINISTER

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ADVISER

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REFERRAL

Macklin/Adviser
Ellis/Adviser
Arbib/Adviser
McLucas /Adviser
Collins /Adviser
Department

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Date of Correspondence: _____

Received in MO/PSO: 8/11

Received in MPES: 8/11

BRANCH:

Mental Health + Autism

OUTPUT GROUP:

5.4

Coding Officer:

Peter

Comments: _____

Date:

12/11

Related PDR: _____

Dear Minister Macklin MP

My organisation is getting an increasing number of requests for information and comment from Government. We are volunteers and most of us provide round the clock care and support for a person with autism. We do not have the capacity to meet Government's expectations, but if we don't the Government will not be aware of the needs of people with ASD. Most of us are also inundated with similar requests from state/territory level governments. We are not resourced to meet Governments' expectations.

Before the last election, I met with The Hon. Bill Shorten MP. Among of the issues we discussed were the lack of

- representation for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), their families and carers among the Government's list of "national disability peak organisations that contribute to government policies about disability issues affecting Australian families and communities" (see <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/AustralianDisabilityEnterprises/Pages/DI> and
- funding and support for a peak body, or even a national level secretariat, for autism spectrum disorders.

At the time, Mr Shorten asked the FaHCSIA representative to report on the representation issue and to find some initial funding for a national level secretariat for autism spectrum disorders. To my knowledge, this has not happened and I am not aware of any progress on these matters.

I am concerned that Mr Shorten's request may have been only verbal: there may be no written record with the Government. With the changes of people involved, the action could easily be forgotten.


Please could you tell me whether these matters are being progressed, and if so, where they are up to. If they are not being progressed, can we meet to discuss these and other crucial matters affecting people with autism spectrum disorders. I can be contacted via email or phone: 0418677288 to organise a meeting time.

Your sincerely

Bob Buckley
Convenor, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia

regards
Bob Buckley

Convenor
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia

 logo image for autism aspergers advocacy australia, known as A4

URL: <http://a4.org.au/a4/>
mobile: +61 418 677 288

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irrelevant