

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**SENATE REPORT INTO CSTDA  
CALLS FOR SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING!  
*CONFIRMS CRITICAL SHORTFALL OF SERVICES  
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY ACROSS AUSTRALIA***

The Report of the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the funding and operation of the Commonwealth State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) tabled on Thursday 8 February confirms what people with disability, their families and the disability sector across Australia already know too well that the supports and services people with disability need are not there.

Thousands of people with disability and their families across Australia are not able to access the most basic services they require - services that our community would assume are available. The Report makes its primary recommendation "that Commonwealth, State and Territory governments **jointly commit** as part of the fourth CSTDA to **substantial additional funding to address identified unmet need for specialist support services**, particularly for accommodation services and supports".

The National CSTDA Community Alliance spokesperson, Co-Convenor Su-Hsien Lee, commends the Senate Committee for its unanimous report containing many strong recommendations to all governments across Australia. "People with disability and their families from around Australia will be watching the negotiation of the next agreement very closely. Our governments across Australia are called upon to do the right thing and to take heed of the recommendations included in this Report".

The Report confirms that the CSTDA remains the basis for delivery of disability services across Australia but that a renewed national strategic approach is required in order to ensure a coordinated national approach to the delivery of disability services and to ensure that people with disability can access the services they require throughout their lives.

"People with disability and their families are tired of the buckpassing of responsibility between governments. The Senate Committee acknowledges the unacceptability of governments resorting to buckpassing and clearly supports the rights of people with disability as citizens of Australia to the basic supports and services they require to participate and contribute to society and places responsibility with all governments across Australia", says Su-Hsien Lee.

Will our governments take action to ensure that the supports and services people with disability need will be available? Or, will our governments say that Australia will not ensure that even the most basic supports and services that citizens with disability require will be available to all of them when they need it?