

## **Inquiry into improving access to early childhood health and development checks**

### **Question on notice**

*Ms Wright, you spoke about collaborating and having early intervention screenings at morning teas, playgroups, preschools et cetera. Do you think that early intervention screening has gone backwards since Ageing, Disability and Home Care became non-existent and services transitioned to NDIS?*

### **Response**

While NCOSS cannot comment on whether early intervention screening has 'gone backwards' since the transition to NDIS, we know that access to the NDIS often requires a formal diagnosis, which can delay or complicate access to early intervention for children whose needs are still being assessed. The cost of obtaining a diagnosis for a child can be very high, and it can take years to access the necessary specialists, especially in rural and regional communities. This can make obtaining a diagnosis prohibitively expensive for families who are living in poverty or on low incomes. Delayed access to supports can profoundly impact children's development.

