

# Media Release

NSW Legislative Council

Select Committee On Foundational And Disability Supports  
Available For Children And Young People In New South Wales



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE HANDS DOWN FIRST REPORT INTO FOUNDATIONAL AND DISABILITY SUPPORTS

Today, an upper house committee looking into foundational and disability supports for children and young people handed down its interim report. The committee's report makes a number of findings and recommendations for the NSW Government to ensure that children and young people with developmental concerns, delays, differences or disabilities are better supported to find the help they need as early as possible.

The committee found that children and young people in New South Wales with developmental delays or disability face significant difficulties accessing foundational supports, particularly in the early years. It also found that systemic barriers, including funding gaps, a fragmented service system that creates long wait times, non-existent navigation pathways, and the limited availability of services outside the National Disability Insurance Scheme result in families not having the support they need at critical stages of development.

The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Chair of the Committee, said that the committee had heard from a range of stakeholders including young people, parents, and caregiver, as well as frontline workers, peak sector organisations, service providers and advocates within the disability service and supports sector. Mrs Maclaren-Jones commented: 'It is clear from the evidence heard by the committee that there are gaps and barriers to accessing services and supports across the board, including workforce issues and fragmented funding models. However, the committee is concerned that these are especially impacting certain groups, including those in rural and regional areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and culturally and linguistically diverse families.'




The Chair continued: 'This inquiry has brought to light the administrative burden experienced by families and caregivers, and the reality that so many trusted, locally-governed service providers operate in an unstable funding environment that hinders long-term planning, workforce retention, and continuity of care.'

In particular, the Chair emphasised the need for 'investing in evidence based, quality prevention and early intervention for children and young people, co-designed approaches to improving cultural safety, and uptake of foundational supports for ensuring that supports and services fill service gaps rather than duplicating aspects of the NDIS.'

The committee continues its inquiry and is due to hand down its final report by the end of the year.

The committee's first report and further information about the inquiry can be found at the [inquiry webpage](#).

**For more information, please contact:**

-  The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Committee Chair
-  +61 (02) 9320 2836
-  [office.maclaren-jones@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office.maclaren-jones@parliament.nsw.gov.au)