**22 March 2022**

**The Hon Bill Shorten MP**

**Shadow Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme**

**PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

**Via email to:** **bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au**

Dear Mr Shorten

**Re: Election Commitment Regarding Support for Australians with Disability who are Excluded from the NDIS**

The Assistive Technology for All Alliance, and the more than 60 organisations who support our work, encourage the Australian Labor Party to publicly commit to establishing a harmonised and nationally consistent assistive technology program to meet the needs of Australians with disability who are excluded from the NDIS.

To find out why this issue is so critically important:

* Watch our short [explainer animation video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o92pzCPavZ0)
* Access our [PowerPoint presentation](https://assistivetechforall.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-06-18-ATFA-PowerPoint-Final.pptx)
* Visit our [campaign website](https://assistivetechforall.org.au/)

We are encouraging all candidates standing for election in 2022 to pledge their commitment to work with their Parliamentary colleagues to establish a harmonised and nationally consistent assistive technology program to support people with disability who are excluded from the NDIS. Please see the attached pledge letter for further details. Equality is one of the Australian Labour Party’s core values, which is why we know that you will understand the importance of prioritising this issue. As an influential member of the Labor Party and someone who has previously demonstrated a keen interest in improving the lives of people with disability, we ask that you please encourage your party to publicly commit to the establishment of such a program in advance of the 2022 election.

This pre-election commitment will be of benefit to the Labor Party, as most Australians believe that fairness, equality and respect are important national values. This issue also directly affects a large number of Australian voters. There are 4.4 million people with disability across Australia and 90% of these people are currently excluded from the NDIS. This situation is also having a profound impact on families and Carers who are required to provide additional support because the people with disability they care for cannot access the assistive technology they need.

 Thank you for your time and for taking an interest in the welfare of Australians with disability who are excluded from the NDIS, their families and Carers. We look forward to receiving your response regarding this critical pre-election commitment.

Yours Sincerely

Lauren Henley

Assistive Technology for All Campaign Coordinator