Dear (MPs name)

You are my local member of Parliament, and I am writing to you to ask for your urgent help.

Last week, the State and Federal Government announced that WA would have its own disability scheme. That makes us the only state who won’t be part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Over the past two years, West Australians with disability and their families have raised concerns about the details of both schemes. The response of the WA Government is that they will be taking the ‘best bits’ out of both schemes to make something way better.

The announcement that negotiations have commenced means that it is likely that a bilateral agreement is being developed around a model which people with disability, families and advocacy organisations have not yet even sighted. The draft legislation is also being developed behind closed doors.

I am worried that this model may leave us worse off than other Australians and I strongly believe that people with disability and their families should be involved in co-designing any disability scheme that will impact upon our lives.

The WA State Government says that the schemes are ‘identical’ and we know that is not the case. Under the WA scheme, people who are self-managing are significantly worse off and people have less choice and control than under the Federal NDIS.

The cost of the administration of the proposed scheme is significantly higher than the cost of the Federal NDIS in other states and I believe we should be given the opportunity to examine whether it represents good value for money.

We need to make sure that this is a scheme that works for people with disability and their families, not just providers and governments.

We need to see the proposed model and for government to behave transparently and with accountability.

We need to be actively involved in making the decisions that will affect our future.

In short, we need to make sure that this is the NDIS that we fought for and not a second rate copy that may potentially leave us with the worst disability scheme in Australia.

I am writing to ask for your urgent leadership and action on this matter and I am happy to meet with you to tell you about my circumstances and why this is important to me. We are asking decision makers to commit to and lobby for a transparent and accountable process and a model which is co-designed with the people who will be most affected by this scheme – us.

Western Australians with disability are counting on you and your party to make sure that we are supported and are not worse off than other Australians.

Regards