

Right to a full, dignified life

As polio survivors, we at Post Polio Victoria thank Bill Moss – “Call to remove NDIS bias” (News, 4/5).

We are acutely aware of the age discrimination against over-65s in the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We call for immediate inclusion for fair and equal service for all people with a disability who are aged 65-plus. This would enable them and their families to live full, happy, productive and dignified lives.

**Shirley Glance, president,
Post Polio Victoria**

Blatant discrimination

Congratulations to Jewel Topsfield and Bill Moss for an excellent expose of a cruel and irrational injustice (*The Age*, 3/5). Access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme is being systematically denied to an arbitrary class of people with disabilities, even though they meet the disability criteria. This disgraceful ban is inflicted on people who were over 65 when the NDIS rolled out in their area. Victims include people whose disabilities began in childhood, as a result of infantile paralysis (polio).

As well as being morally reprehensible, it is presumably unlawful under the UN Disability Convention which prohibits discrimination against disabled people on all grounds.

As Mr Moss says, the age cap must be removed. The good news is that it is very simple to rescue victims from this particular cliff – repeal section 22 of the NDIS Act and the job is done. All Australians who meet the disability criteria must be included fairly and equally. **Peter Freckleton, Hampton**

Fix NDIS age anomaly

The age discrimination inherent in the NDIS is highlighted by Bill Moss (“Call to remove NDIS age ‘bias’”, *The Age*, 3/5). I share his alarm. The polio epidemic saw thousands of us contracting this disease and developing the disability that follows. Now, at 65, I am supported by the NDIS while most others are ineligible, having been over 65 when the NDIS came in. They are therefore reliant on an over-burdened aged-care system. Some with higher support needs have been told they are better suited to a nursing home. The aged-care system is not designed for those with life-long disabilities. The Productivity Commission made a number of recommendations regarding the NDIS and the age cutoff is one that Senator Reynolds’ spokesman referred to in the article. Ageism, unconscious or otherwise, clearly had a part in this recommendation and subsequent decision. Just as the government is addressing other social issues, this one can be rectified. All people with disabilities have the same rights regardless of age. The NDIS should deliver on this.

Liz Telford, Clifton Hill