



NDIS Quality
and Safeguards
Commission

MC22-000429

Mr Mark Cresswell
President
Certified Practising Counsellors Australia

Via email: Mcresswell@accsc.com.au

Dear Mr Cresswell

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2022 to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Hon Bill Shorten MP, about recognition of Certified Practising Counsellors Australia (CPCA) as a professional body for counsellors delivering NDIS services and supports to NDIS participants. The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

It was useful to meet with you last week to discuss the matter further and gain an understanding of CPCA. During the meeting, you raised that the NDIS Pricing Arrangements has had a change in wording in respect of counsellors' professional bodies and this has affected CPCA members. The NDIA are responsible for pricing, including the NDIS Pricing Arrangements document. As discussed, I will contact the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to advise them of your feedback and request they contact you directly regarding this aspect of your enquiry.

During our meeting, we also discussed the process CPCA could undertake if your organisation wishes to be considered as a professional body for counsellors in the guidance document: *NDIS Practice Standards: Verification Module - Required Documentation*. To summarise, CPCA may write to the NDIS Commission if it wishes to apply for consideration as a professional body for counsellors seeking to be registered for the class of support *128 Therapeutic Supports*. In considering such a request, the NDIS Commission would consider CPCA membership requirements and its arrangements for regulating the professional practice and standards it requires of its members.

We also encourage you to direct CPCA members to the NDIS Commission website to understand their obligations in delivering NDIS supports and services as a registered or unregistered NDIS providers, including the NDIS Code of Conduct and worker screening arrangements.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Clements
Deputy Registrar

29 September 2022

T 1800 035 544
E contactcentre@ndiscommission.gov.au

PO Box 210
Penrith NSW 2750

www.ndiscommission.gov.au