



Welcome Bill Shorten!

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The appointment of Bill Shorten as ALP Federal Parliamentary Leader will be broadly welcomed by the national disability community.

While many ALP politicians had a hand in the formation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Bill Shorten is rightfully seen by many closest to the scheme as the key driver of this essential program. In the eyes of many he is the "Father of the NDIS !"

As Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Shorten tirelessly and regularly criss-crossed the country and from the earliest days championed the NDIS cause.

In simple language Bill got it!

He got the seriousness of the problem and the quantum and scope of the solution needed.

Everywhere he went he won admiration and respect for his empathy, his drive and his determination to make NDIS a social justice program of the ilk of Medicare, compulsory Super, Aged pensions and unemployment benefit programs.

The national disability sector will sleep easier knowing the Federal Leader of the Opposition is not only a tough and skilled parliamentary performer but more importantly a genuinely true advocate of NDIS. No doubt Shorten will be vigilant and vocal if the Abbott Liberal Government looks like slowing, swerving or diluting either the structure or intent of NDIS. In many ways NDIS Bill Shorten could claim NDIS as his baby.

To have a passionate NDIS supporter standing across the chamber, while debating the Prime Minister can only be good for NDIS and all those who desperately need this program to be delivered sooner rather than later.

We welcome Mr Shorten's appointment and like many think it was well overdue.

We wish him well in his new role and position.

David Holst

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