**Australian Shadow Report Delegation Opening Statement**

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Inclusion should apply to all people with disability, At all stages of life, Without any limitations or exceptions. This starts with education.

Segregation of students with disability has increased during the reporting period. Funding incentives, gatekeeping practices and inaccessible facilities are directing students with disability away from mainstream education and into special schools, or separate classes in mainstream schools.

The Australian Government’s request for a clarification from the Committee to justify the continued practice of segregating students with disability shows a lack of understanding of its obligations under article 24 and general comment 4, and a reluctance to properly invest in inclusive mainstream education.

Moving from the young to the old, we are increasingly concerned at the level of inequity that exist for older people with disability who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Many of these people are being filtered into an aged care system that does not provide equitable support and lack specialist disability expertise.

The Australian Government has stated that it is meeting the needs of people with disability who fall outside the NDIS through the Commonwealth Continuity of Support Program and the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Framework. This is simply not the case, and many people are being left without the support they critically need.