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**Letter in Support of Psychosocial Disability: NDIS Access Request for:
JOHN SMITH**

Address:

DOB:

NDIS number:

Today's Date:

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter in support of JOHN SMITH's request to access the NDIS. As evidenced on his access request form, JOHN SMITH has been diagnosed with several physical and mental health conditions. These include chronic schizophrenia, OCD, inguinal hernia, umbilical hernia, vascular disease, bilateral ulcers on legs and basal cell carcinoma. The primary disability that has the most significant impact on JOHN SMITH's daily life is chronic schizophrenia.

The impairments related to chronic schizophrenia impact significantly on every aspect of JOHN SMITH's day-to-day life and necessitate ongoing support from care staff. JOHN SMITH currently resides in supported accommodation that is provided by Independent Community Living Australia (ICLA). He has been a client of this service since 01/01/2016.

As an employee of ICLA, I have supported JOHN SMITH for a period of 2 years and 4 months in the capacity of a Support Worker, Assessment Officer and Team Leader. During this time, I have known JOHN SMITH to be significantly impacted by his mental and physical ill-health, resulting primarily from his diagnosis of chronic schizophrenia and associated psychosocial disability. My observations of the significance of these impairments are as follows:

MOBILITY

Functional impact:

JOHN SMITH is unable to freely leave the house and access the community due to obsessive compulsive behaviours and paranoia related to his diagnosis of schizophrenia.

Type and frequency of support:

JOHN SMITH requires weekly one to one support for two hours to ensure he is attending medical appointments and properly attending to the ulcers on his legs. He requires support from staff when traveling to a new place or attending a new appointment.

COMMUNICATION

Functional impact:

JOHN SMITH experiences chronic auditory hallucinations and paranoia as a result of his diagnosis of schizophrenia. The chronic, persecutory and commanding auditory hallucinations that JOHN SMITH experiences cause him to become easily distracted and tangential in conversation and thought. He describes being frequently "tortured by demons" and during conversation, will freely relay what the "demons" are saying or telling him to do. The delusions caused by JOHN SMITH's persistent positive symptoms of schizophrenia significantly impact on his insight and ability to communicate, identify his care needs and follow instructions. JOHN SMITH's delusional thought and poor insight into his mental health prevent him from seeking support and render him unable to identify a decline in his mental and physical health.

We're here to help

Please get in touch for more information.

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Suite 76, Level 7, 8-24 Kippax Street Surry Hills, NSW 2010

ABN: 97 146 618 733

Type and frequency of support:

JOHN SMITH requires 1:1 support for 2 hours a fortnight to access and engage with new services and medical appointments. He requires 2 hours of support per month for understanding and appropriately responding to official correspondence and following directions from mainstream medical staff. JOHN SMITH requires an additional 1 hour of support per week to engage in conversation with staff about his care needs and goals.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Functional impact:

JOHN SMITH's poor insight, persistent auditory hallucinations and paranoia related to his diagnosis of schizophrenia significantly impact on his ability to form and maintain friendships. JOHN SMITH's social cognition is significantly impaired by his long history of conditioned social isolation, paranoia, obsessions and preoccupation with the "demons" that he persistently hears. This has resulted in a complete deterioration in contact with his two brothers and two sisters whom he has not spoken to in over 15 years. Although JOHN SMITH engages in superficial conversation in passing with his housemates and staff, his diminished sense of self and delusions prevent him from forming meaningful relationships with others. This loneliness further contributes to his reduced social cognition and isolation. JOHN SMITH has no friends or meaningful relationships in his life.

Type and frequency of support:

JOHN SMITH requires gauged social interaction with a support person to explore, encourage and accompany him to social activities for 2 hours per week in order to improve his social cognition, confidence and explore activities of interest.

LEARNING

Functional impact:

JOHN SMITH demonstrates a strong eagerness to pursue further education and seek employment. However, impaired cognition, alertness, orientation to task and compulsions related to his diagnosis of schizophrenia prevent him from effectively learning and improving his capacity. JOHN SMITH delusions cause him to become tangential and disordered in thought and significantly impair his receptive and expressive communication, decision making, cognition and orientation to task. This often makes learning new tasks without support from staff a challenging and unrewarding experience which further contributes to JOHN SMITH's diminished sense of self.

Type and frequency of support:

JOHN SMITH requires a support person to assist him for 1 hour per week in accessing and completing courses or further education of his choosing. He requires a support person to assist with capacity building, staying orientated and motivated, particularly when undertaking new tasks.

JOHN SMITH requires cognitive and functional assessments from an Occupational Therapist in order to identify his learning needs and assist staff in providing appropriate, effective capacity building supports.

SELF-MANAGEMENT

Functional impact:

The delusions, impaired cognition, tangential thought, paranoia and compulsive behaviours that result from JOHN SMITH's diagnosis of schizophrenia significantly impair his capacity for decision making, planning and self-advocacy. As a result, he frequently becomes anxious and doubts his ability to complete a task or make correct decisions. He will constantly seek reassurance and validation from staff and cannot stay organised or orientated without reassurance and support with empowered decision making.

JOHN SMITH is unable to independently maintain a clean household, connect with services and manage daily tasks due to his anxiety and impaired insight, awareness and organisational skills.

Type and frequency of support:

JOHN SMITH requires a support person for four hours per week to assist with maintaining a clean and safe household, accessing services, managing paperwork, attending medical appointments and pursuing his goals.

SELF-CARE

Functional impact:

JOHN SMITH's disordered thought, paranoia, impaired insight and capacity to initiate tasks case him to neglect his health care and hygiene needs. He consistently presents as dishevelled and is unable to independently maintain the cleanliness of his room.

Prior to moving in to ICLA supported accommodation JOHN SMITH had been experiencing varying degrees of homelessness for over fourteen years. He was evicted from boarding houses after not allowing pest controllers into his room, living in squalor and being unable to maintain a clean and safe living environment. During this time, JOHN SMITH mental ill-health, inability to identify his care needs and seek support resulted in a significant decline in his physical and mental health. JOHN SMITH was eventually sectioned to Sydney Hospital after he was found sleeping rough with ulcers on his legs.

JOHN SMITH experiences involuntary movements as a result of his diagnosis of schizophrenia. This has resulted in him cutting himself with a knife in the past. JOHN SMITH's vascular disease and bilateral ulcers on his legs also require upkeep and dressings that he is unable to adequately attend to independently. This has often resulted in infections and further deterioration of his physical health.

JOHN SMITH has limited insight into his mental health and delusional thinking and this prevents him from seeking support and treatment for his mental illness. He believes that he can be cured through prayer and will completely neglect his mental health care needs without wrap around supports.

Type and frequency of support:

JOHN SMITH requires a support person for two hours per week to assist with accessing healthy lifestyle activities, prompting with presentation and personal hygiene, maintaining his physical health and medication compliance.

As the information provided in this supporting letter suggests, JOHN SMITH has substantially reduced function on a day-to-day basis due to his permanent disability and associated impairments. As a result, he does not have the capacity to live independently, make choices or maintain his health and wellbeing without ongoing support and multidisciplinary assessments. JOHN SMITH is dependent on support from paid care workers to support him in identifying and achieving his goals, ensuring his health and safety and participating in the community. This information is also evidenced in Part F of his access request form.

If you have any questions relating to the information above or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Name:

Role:

Organisation:

Phone:

Email: