**Kate Thwaites MP**

PO Box 316

Heidelberg, VIC, 3084

Dear Ms Thwaites,

My name is <***insert name***> and I live in <***suburb***> which is in the electorate of <***electorate name***>.

I am writing to you as my <***child/sister/brother/etc***> participates in the day services program at the <***suburb name***> site operated by Araluen.

<***Feel free to include information about your family member and why day services are essential for your family.***>

It has recently come to my attention that day services are drastically underfunded by the NDIS which is causing Araluen and similar organisations to lose significant amounts of money by operating these services. These organisations will not be able to sustain these losses in the long term and if nothing changes, will face cuts to these services or closure.

As the federal member for Jagajaga, I am asking you to consider lobbying for an increase in the payment for day services participants; to $81.77 per support worker per hour. This amount will allow Araluen to break even and stop incurring losses on the provision of day services.

Araluen has been an important part of the community here in Melbourne’s northeast for almost 50 years. It would be a terrible injustice for them to have to reduce or cut these services - which are essential for the most vulnerable members of our community - because of lack of funding.

If you wish to discuss this further, I can be contacted on <phone number or email>.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Kind Regards,

<Name>

<Phone number or email>