



Subject: URGENT: Meeting Request to Ensure Genuine Consultation re Thriving Kids

Date: 14/10/2025

Attn:

L. Jackman

Assistant Secretary, Foundational Supports and Early Childhood Reforms Branch

The Hon Mark Butler MP

Minister for Disability, Health and Ageing

Cc: Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Sent via email:

Good Morning,

Thank you for your reply to our original letter of concern dated 8th September 2025. We appreciate you must be receiving many communications on the topic of Thriving Kids.

While we acknowledge your response, **RAEN is greatly troubled at the nature of your correspondence.** Your letter was largely devoted to providing surface level information about autism and Thriving Kids, we can assure you, there was no need to educate us, as we live and breathe the matter every day. **It was disappointing to have to convey an update of your letter's contents to our community when it held so little helpful response.**

You response fails to address to the concerns or request of our letter in any meaningful way and furthermore disregards the 15,000 + signatories to our petition who are also expressing their concern in the hope RAEN would be able to meet with yourself, Minister Butler, and receive any sort of satisfactory community engagement or answers to our concerns around Thriving Kids. Additionally, since our first communication, we have been made aware of multiple concerning conflicts within the implementation process of Thriving Kids that we would like to discuss.

Given your letter further fails to acknowledge our request for an URGENT meeting, alongside representatives from ANPA and Reimagine Australia, as well as other organisation representatives to be



confirmed, **we yet again reiterate our requests to ensure we can move forward in a productive manner.**

Our Community supports the call for you to:

1. Halt the rollout of Thriving Kids until independent safety evaluations are complete, and guarantee no children will be removed from the scheme or have their funding significantly cut in the meantime.
2. Engage meaningfully with advocates and DPRO's and work with national advocates to install a DPRO led review panel to provide independent review of programs prior to implementation.
3. Ensure suggested programs comply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
4. Resume genuine engagement with community and advocates and review of previous engagement and feedback which seems to have been disregarded in the case of Inklings.

To achieve meaningful engagement with advocates and DPRO's:

RAEN on behalf of a coalition of national autism organisations requests an URGENT meeting with Minister Butler. Please advise asap of a suitable time.

You note your response that "the Australian Government will work with States and Territories as well as experts to finalise the design and implementation", to this end RAEN continues to engage with Tasmania's Minister for Disability Services, **The Hon Jo Palmer, who supports our request for a meeting with Minister Butler**, given RAEN is the representative advocacy body for autistic Tasmanians.

I await your reply and confirmation of a meeting time,

Kind Regards,

Hannah Reeve

(President - Regional Autistic Engagement Network)

0448 886 924