Media release from the Minister - Taskforce targets alleged NDIS fraud

8 February 2023

Three men will face court over fraud-related offences against the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), following the execution of search warrants early yesterday morning in Western Sydney.

The warrants, relating to alleged fraudulent activity totalling more than $3.3 million, came following an investigation by the Albanese Government's Fraud Fusion Taskforce.

Early on Tuesday morning, Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers executed search warrants across three separate residences in Western Sydney.

The activity led to the arrest and charging of one man, with two other men being issued with Court Attendance Notices for offences including Obtain Financial Gain by Deception and Dealing In Proceeds of Crime.

The arrested man was granted conditional bail and will appear in court on April 4. The remaining two will first appear on March 21.

The charges relate to alleged work and services being undertaken for registered NDIS providers.

"The Fraud Fusion Taskforce is now able to draw on greater cross-agency collaboration, which means wider knowledge and a better ability to detect and catch any criminal who targets the NDIS," Minister for the NDIS, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP said.

"My warning to any criminal attempting to defraud the NDIS – get off our scheme."

It is alleged the three men, each known to one another, set up or acquired businesses as disability providers before going on to submit false claims for NDIS services that were never provided.

The latest arrests follow the earlier arrest of a Brisbane man for alleged fraud against the NDIS.

The man, who was arrested upon re-entering the country in June, had been facing one charge of General Dishonesty.

However, after further work by the NDIA, he is now facing 25 more charges relating to alleged fraudulent activity with a value of more than $430,000. He will face court on March 3.

Anyone with information about suspected fraud involving the NDIS should contact the NDIS fraud reporting and scams helpline on 1800 650 717, or email fraudreporting@ndis.gov.au.

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