Dear [type your MP name here]

**OUR NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE AT RISK**

I am (select one) ‘Deaf / deaf / hard of hearing / deafblind / communication impaired’ and a user of the National Relay Service which allows me to make calls to anyone.

The NRS is a very important part of my home, work and social participation in the community. Without the NRS, I would have to use other indirect services such as email, text messages or other people to call for me.

The NRS provides equality for me and many others like me.

I am shocked that the government wants to change and put at risk the quality and access options of the NRS.

Since 1995, the government and the NRS community have worked together to support one of the world’s best national relay services.

Now, the government wants to reduce the service by one third with an annual cost reduction to $22 million. In 2016 /17, the NRS cost $32 million to operate.

The government also want to ask potential NRS operators to consider which services should be provided and what hours of operation.

No way should service providers recommend what is best for NRS user community.

On ABC’s Q & A, the Minister for Communications did pledge that no person who uses the NRS will be worse off. How is that possible if you reduce the annual NRS budget by one third?

I request that all NRS services should remain 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. This includes the video relay service which is only Monday to Friday and 7am – 6pm.

An outreach service should also be available for new and current NRS users to learn how to use the NRS.

The NRS is a universal access service for the Australian people – let the people decide and work with the government on what is best for us. Please listen to us now.

Don’t fail us now.

Yours sincerely,

[type your name here]