

Exclusive National Crime

Organised crime-linked trio charged with allegedly defrauding NDIS of \$2 million



By [Sally Rawsthorne](#)

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Two women and a man allegedly linked to Middle Eastern organised crime and posing as disability support providers have been charged with defrauding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) of more than \$2 million.

The NDIS Fraud Taskforce raided four properties in western Sydney on Wednesday morning, arresting Wafaa Al Shamari, 32, at Liverpool, Muna El Shreffy, 37, at Bonnyrigg and Adel Al-Shamare, 27, at Wentworthville.

The taskforce, which is a partnership between the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the Australian Federal Police and Services Australia, alleges the trio were operating as disability support providers and were fraudulently claiming payments for services not actually received.

“Operation Pyxis resulted in the arrest of three people with links to Middle Eastern organised crime entities,” the NDIA said in a statement.

Investigators say the trio also allegedly threatened NDIS participants and witnesses.

Wafaa Al Shamari was charged with dishonestly intending to obtain a gain and one count of conspiring to defraud the Commonwealth, while El Shreffy and Adel Al-Shamare were each charged with one count of conspiring to dishonestly obtain a gain.

The NDIS is a Commonwealth government scheme that supports around half a million Australians with a disability. During the election campaign, the Albanese government promised a sweeping review and a crackdown on rorting.

The taskforce was established in 2018 to focus on high-risk and serious criminal activity targeting the NDIS.

All participants in the latest investigation have had their money refunded, the NDIS said in a statement.

“Members of our community have allegedly been targeted, exploited and threatened by groups looking to fill their own pockets and steal public funds that have been set aside for Australians who need that support,” AFP Assistant Commissioner Nigel Ryan

“The AFP will not stop in its pursuit of these groups who chop and change companies in a pointless effort to hide their criminal behaviour from law enforcement.

“Our level of intelligence-sharing with partners is something criminal groups should be extremely apprehensive of.”

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