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Mr Mark Fitt
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the
National Disability Insurance Scheme
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Dear Mr Fitt

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Committee). I am pleased to hear that the Committee found the briefing session of use and I am more than happy to meet with the Committee as required.

Pertaining to the Committee's request for additional information regarding South Australia's disability support services in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), please find responses to your questions in the attachment.

I trust that the Committee will find this information of value and look forward to meeting with the Committee when it visits the trial sites in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Joslene Mazel
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1/5/2014

Encl



Responses to the Committee's request for additional information regarding South Australia's disability support services in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

a) the 'Tier 2' supports that the State is currently providing that it will not provide when the Scheme is fully operational

The majority of 'Tier 2' supports comprise the basic community care supports provided through the former Home and Community Care Program (HACC). South Australia has excluded a proportion of its former HACC funding from the NDIS to continue funding existing services that will be excluded from the NDIS.

The final list of in-scope 'Tier 2' supports will be dependent on the work being carried out at the national level through the Disability Policy Group.

In terms of whether or not these services are provided by government or funded by government and provided by non-government organisations or for-profit providers, there has been no decision taken to indicate a change in current practice.

b) details of the State's regional and remote disability support services, particularly in Indigenous communities including details relating to early childhood disability

Service provision through the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) in regional and remote areas includes the following.

Disability SA

Disability SA in country areas provides tailored services to meet the needs of adults with a range of disabilities including physical, intellectual and brain injury. The services provided include complex case management, coordination of supports, family support and information. An important aspect of this support is crisis intervention and assisting individuals and families to find solutions to everyday difficulties and complex issues. In addition, a range of group programs are provided for adults, offering independent living skills training and social skills development. In some country areas, Aboriginal Cultural Advisors assist in supporting and connecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients to services.

Country Disability SA provides a range of services to eligible children through Country Children's Services. The key supports provided include assisting families in their caring role and supporting children in their development and early childhood support services.

Some of the specific types of services provided to children and their families include specialised case management and coordination of supports; family support and information; some individual therapies; and group programs for children and/or their parents.



Services to children are provided by a range of Disability SA staff including social workers, developmental educators, case managers and allied health workers specialising in autism. Some regional offices have occupational therapists and psychologists. Services are delivered from seven local offices across northern country areas and three in the south. Workers travel to rural and remote areas, providing support to families where they live, where possible.

Disability and Domiciliary Care

Disability Services, through the Adult Specialist Services Intervention and Support Team (ASSIST) provides allied health therapy services both directly and indirectly to eligible adults in regional and remote areas.

ASSIST External Liaison Clinicians support and guide country therapists to prescribe equipment and home modifications that are then supplied via the DCSI Equipment Program. Direct client services are provided by a range of allied health therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists and psychologists to certain regional areas as the clinical needs of eligible adults arise. The most visited areas include Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and the Riverland.

The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands are provided with physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology services, by visiting ASSIST staff eight times per year to people with disability, aged 18 years and above and those who are aged. Advice and support to local staff and clients is offered between visits. Equipment, minor home modifications, and maintenance prescribed by the therapists are provided in the APY Lands by the DCSI Equipment Program.

The Independent Living Centre (ILC) provides an information and advisory service on equipment and techniques to improve the independence and wellbeing of all consumers via the mobile unit outreach service, which comprises a wheelchair accessible caravan and occupational therapy staff. This service visits each country region on an annual basis.

Disability Services manages 17 community accommodation houses in rural areas. Mount Gambier in the South East has ten locations with 34 clients. Northern Yorke Peninsula has seven locations across Kadina, Moonta and Moonta Bay with 14 clients.

The DCSI Equipment Program provides a state-wide service to adults and children with a disability. Specific arrangements undertaken by Domiciliary Equipment Service (DES) that support timely access to services for people living in rural and remote locations are provided in the following areas.

- Assessment – support for rural and remote clinicians in equipment prescription is offered by clinical support officers at DES. The Equipment Program offers regular training for clinicians for specific equipment types, and prescription practices are supported by a suite of online resources.



- **Equipment Provision** – The DES equipment provision model focuses on stock equipment and reissue and this enables rapid provision of equipment (average of five days from receipt of order) state-wide. Contracts are in place for rural and remote deliveries of items daily from the DES warehouse and items are normally delivered to remote locations within 48 hours. In addition, DES operates a satellite store of commonly issued equipment at Marla to support more responsive service provision to the APY lands. Clinicians and other DCSI staff can access items, including hospital beds, that can be issued directly to support people being discharged from larger centres such as Alice Springs. When appropriate, specialist items such as rugged power wheelchairs are also provided to individuals to help reduce the frequency of repairs and maintenance for users in remote locations.
- **Equipment Repairs** – DES utilises a network of repairers throughout South Australia to provide a local repair response where possible, with additional support provided by DES in-house expertise where necessary. DES (in conjunction with a national training provider) received funding through the NDIA sector development grant to extend a training and skills recognition program to its repair contractors. This includes a number of repairers located in regional areas.
- **Home Modifications Provision** – DES utilises a network of contractors throughout South Australia to undertake both simple and complex home modifications. More complex structural modifications are undertaken using an in-house project manager to supervise all aspects of the modifications and ensure that the scope and quality of work is appropriate.

Tri-state Agreement

The Tri-state Agreement between Western Australia, the Northern Territory and South Australia provides a collaborative approach to improve services on the APY Lands for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. Administered by Western Australia, the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council has been engaged to provide case management services and family support and respite services to people with disability.

The Tri-state Agreement has been successful in guiding the operations of the three jurisdictions in delivering disability services to the people of the NPY region since 2005. There is less duplication of effort, a more coordinated approach to service delivery across the jurisdictions and greater consistency in data collection. The Agreement also recognises the transient nature of people living on the Lands and enables service delivery to occur without being constrained by state and territory borders.



Policy and Community Development

The APY Lands Community Programs team provides a disability support program in seven communities. Services include day activities, support for people with a disability and their families, behaviour management services for people with complex needs, and a carer service for people with high needs. This is a jointly funded program between the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments until June 2015. Consideration is being given to the delivery of the program beyond 2015.

Service provision through SA Health in regional and remote areas includes the following.

SA Health – Country Health SA

Country Health SA Local Health Network (CHSALHN), provides disability support services to people from birth to 65 years of age, including those with psychiatric disability, living in regional and remote areas. The majority of services are provided under South Australian HACC funding agreements or through contracts to provide services on behalf of other agencies. All locations differ in what services they are funded to provide and, subject to need, with limited outreach services provided to remote communities. Outreach services generally provide input across the lifespan, health and disability spectrum of care in recognition of longstanding market failure for both health and disability services in the non-government and private sectors in remote and Aboriginal communities.

Services provided by CHSALHN for people with disability vary at each location and include in-home and out-of-home care (respite); domestic assistance; transport; personal care; case management; care coordination; home modification; home maintenance; nursing services including continence; group and day centre programs; individual allied health therapy; provision of orthotics and prosthetics; equipment assessment and provision; home modification; counselling; and support for carers and clients.

Disability support services provided by CHSALHN for children birth to 14 years of age include individual allied health therapy; group programs; equipment assessment and training; provision of orthotics and prosthetics; and limited complex case coordination. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disability access these regional and paediatric outreach services.

CHSALHN does not provide any specific disability support services in the APY Lands. However, people with disability in the APY Lands access the mainstream health programs delivered. Visiting allied health services are provided to the remote Aboriginal communities of Yalata and Oak Valley and, while not disability specific, have provided support for people with disability as necessary.

c) details of State-funded residential accommodation for people with disability

The majority of people who receive disability services are supported in their own home, with staff visiting to provide personal care support. Some people live in cluster homes or shared accommodation, known as group homes, with on-site staff. South Australia also operates several institutions for people with disability, although numbers are reducing due to the de-institutionalisation reform agenda.

Service type classifications (definitions) for accommodation support include supported accommodation identified as:

- large residential/institutions (more than 20 places) – usually located on large parcels of land and provide 24 hour residential support in a congregate setting of more than 20 beds;
- small residential/institutions (seven to 20 places) – usually located on large parcels of land and provide 24 hour residential support in a congregate or cluster setting of seven to 20 beds;
- group homes (less than seven places) – provide combined accommodation and community-based residential support to people in a residential setting. Usually no more than 6 service users are located in any one house, although this can vary. Group homes are generally staffed 24 hours a day. The agency funded to provide the service usually has control of the residence (i.e. own, lease, hold in trust, or in other ways be responsible for the residence, not just the support, to enable the residents to remain in the residence).

Data for all supported accommodation service types in 2012-13 is as follows.

Service type	Total clients	Total services	Percentage of service category
Large institution (>20 places)	501	503	8%
Small institution (<20 places)	22	22	0%
Hostels	16	16	0%
Group homes	1,326	1,393	23%
Attendant care/personal care	1,150	1,235	20%
In home accommodation support	2,602	2,761	46%
Alternative family placement	78	78	1%
Other accommodation support	48	49	1%
Total accommodation	5,267*	6,057	100%

* Clients can receive multiple service types – therefore total clients for the service categories will not equal the total unique clients reported for the year.

As at 30 June 2013, the following number of large residential/institutions and small residential/institutions existed with the identified number of funded places.

Large residential/institutions	
Agency name	Number of funded places
Anglicare SA Incorporated - Brompton	40
Bedford Group Incorporated - Clapham	20
Minda Incorporated – Brighton*	234
Disability and Domiciliary Care Services - Northgate	50
Disability and Domiciliary Care Services – Fullarton (Highgate)*	55
Disability and Domiciliary Care Services – Fullarton (aged care)	52
Disability and Domiciliary Care Services – Oakden* (Strathmont)	27
Disability and Domiciliary Care Services - Oakden	21
Small residential/institutions	
Agency name	Number of funded places
Orana Incorporated - Glenside	12
Orana Incorporated – Clarence Park	8

* Highgate Park, the Strathmont Centre and Minda Inc are the only extremely large facilities for people with disability in South Australia. These facilities are being downsized with the aim of supporting people to live in the community.

In addition, as at 30 June 2013 there were:

- 173 group homes run by the government;
- 261 group homes run by non-government organisations;
- two centre-based respite facilities run by the government; and
- 62 centre-based respite facilities run by non-government organisations.

In 2012-13, 1,326 unique clients received a total of 1,393 group home services and 1,005 unique clients received 1,174 centre-based respite services.

c) Additional details of State-funded residential accommodation for people with disability, including:

i. the number of people with disability currently being supported in State-operated disability institutions

In 2012/13, a total of 215 unique clients were supported in a State-operated disability institutions.



ii. the State's plans to privatise existing disability institutions

The South Australian Government has an ongoing de-institutionalisation reform agenda. There has been no decision taken to indicate a change in current arrangements.

iii. the State's options to assist displaced residents in finding appropriate alternative accommodation and the funding that is available to the State Government to assist with this process

Supporting people through individualised approaches and planning to assist people with disability to live in the community is the policy direction across South Australia, thus providing opportunities for people with disability to participate in community life. The mix and style of housing and support is being determined through the "one person at a time" intensive lifestyle planning and support initiative that responds to people's individual preferences and requirements.

A number of dedicated programs in South Australia have provided funding for accommodation that may assist with people leaving, or who would otherwise reside in, institutions. Examples include the following.

- Bedford's "Homes for 100" project – the \$10.6m partnership between the State Government and Bedford Industries was completed in February 2013, resulting in 33 community-based accommodation properties for 74 South Australians with an intellectual disability.
- Julia Farr Housing Association – Housing SA is overseeing the transfer of capital assets worth \$21m to the Julia Farr Housing Association, including 38 new purpose-built houses and 14 refurbishments. The transfer of housing assets commenced in 2006/07, to provide supported community-based living for people with disability.
- Disability Housing Program – 334 Housing SA properties (as at 30 June 2013) are leased to government and non-government organisations, specifically for use by people living with disability. The organisations provide integrated housing and tenancy management and support.
- Strathmont Centre devolution – \$21.6m over four years for the third and final stage of the Strathmont Centre devolution, including funding for the purchase and construction of purpose-built individual housing. The project is due for completion in June 2015 and will provide a level of independence and community living for the residents and their families.
- New Disability Housing Organisation – a new specialist disability housing organisation (DHO) has been established as an arms-length management organisation. The DHO will be an independent community housing organisation, providing housing to high needs disability clients.
- New respite facility in Adelaide CBD – the State Government has committed to investing \$7.44 million to construct, in partnership with the private sector, a new 18-room complex for people living with disability and their families who need respite.

iv. *the number and type of new State-funded residences being built to replace old stock*

Housing SA has an ongoing program to replace obsolete and ageing houses with newly constructed dwellings, many of which have a disability focus, including these examples.

- The 2012/13 State budget provided additional disability support funding for the construction of community-based homes for people with disability. This investment will help people living with disability with appropriate housing.
- In 2013, the South Australian Government announced \$27m of Housing SA projects for the construction of up to 90 specialised dwellings for people with disability in metropolitan and regional locations. The key objective of the project (Disability Housing Project) is to increase the supply of supported and accessible accommodation through the provision of individualised housing and reduce pressure on Disability SA's waiting list. The project is due to be completed by December 2014.
- Affordable Housing Stimulus Program – the initiative includes \$30m for a social housing investment program to build 100 new social housing dwellings and \$20m for a capital grant program to deliver approximately 75 new community housing dwellings. Fifteen per cent of these outcomes will be directed towards people on the Disability SA waiting list.
- Eight “smart living” (i.e. using cutting-edge technology to maximise residents' independence) apartments have been constructed in Woodville West to support people with high support needs.
- A minimum of 75% of all new social housing is built in accordance with adaptable standard guidelines. House types that cannot comply may include two-storey constructions or dwellings built on steep sites.
- Essential disability modifications are undertaken on properties for tenants (including members of the household) with disability, where the property is suitable for modifications. These modifications are provided and maintained at no cost to the tenant.

v. *the assistance that the State Government may provide to organise ‘pooled’ accommodation for former residents of state-operated disability institutions*

Supporting people through individualised approaches and planning to assist people with disability to live in the community is paramount.

As a landlord, Housing SA works with Disability SA (support provider) to provide two types of “pooled” accommodation for people who may otherwise have resided in institutions.

- Small cluster housing – a number of houses on one site that have access to 24-hour support, usually available via an internal communication system. Some sites are made up of a group home with a small number of units nearby, allowing people more independence with the benefit of being able to call on support when needed.



- Group homes – generally there are four or five people living in each group home, supported by paid staff. This style of accommodation is generally for people who require access to 24-hour support, help with meals, personal hygiene and social activities.

d) *the future role of the State Government in terms of direct funding and in-kind support for disability services, both during the NDIS trial stage and once the Scheme is fully operational in 2019-20*

All government funding and in-kind support for in-scope disability supports to children birth to 14 will transition to the NDIS. South Australia's contribution to the trial is outlined in the *Intergovernmental Agreement for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Launch – Schedule C*. As part of the *Heads of Agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australia on the National Disability Insurance Scheme*, arrangements for transition to full scheme will be consistent with the trial and take learnings through the trial period into consideration. South Australia will, where possible, cash-out as much funding as possible in line with the State's commitment to individualised funding.

South Australia will continue to provide funding for basic community care for people with disability, under the age of 65 (under the age of 50 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), who are not eligible for support through the NDIS and "out-of-scope" programs for people with disability and their families and carers.