

Department of Social Services

PDR No	Outcome	Senator	Subject	Question	Hansard Page(s)/Written
SQ19-000190	3 - Disability and Carers	Siewert, Rachel	NDIS Transition - Program Eligibility	<p>Senator Watt: So there are around 25,000 people—</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: Yes. And these are estimates, obviously.</p> <p>Senator Watt: sure—who are eligible for the NDIS?</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: Who we estimate will be eligible for the NDIS. They haven't tested—</p> <p>Senator Watt: Okay, but they're not yet getting it.</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: They haven't tested their eligibility yet.</p> <p>Senator Watt: Consequently, they're receiving other forms of Commonwealth funded support?</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: They're in one or other of the existing Commonwealth programs; that's right.</p> <p>Senator Siewert: Are you able to tell us which programs they are, and the numbers against the programs?</p>	83
SQ19-000191	1 - Social Security	Siewert, Rachel	Energy Assistance Payment	<p>Senator McAllister: ...the Department of Finance indicated that they were working with you to develop costings?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Was there a single costing developed, or were different options considered?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: There was a single costing developed.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: When was that finalised?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: The costing? The costing was finalised on the Wednesday.</p> <p>Senator Siewert: What time?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I would have to take the exact time on notice, but Wednesday morning.</p>	87
SQ19-000192	1 - Social Security	McAllister, Jenny	Energy Assistance Payments	<p>Senator McAllister: Can you please provide to the committee the number of people who will receive the energy assistance payment under the new regime, the one that was passed, broken down by payment type?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I can do that. I don't know if I can do it right now, but if I could—</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I wonder if you could do it over the course of the next couple of hours.</p>	87
SQ19-000193	1 - Social Security	Siewert, Rachel	Supplements to all income support recipients	<p>Senator Siewert: ...Could you please take on notice where there have been supplements of this nature, paid only to a certain group of income support recipients.</p>	88
SQ19-000194	1 - Social Security	Siewert, Rachel	Energy Assistance Payment	<p>Senator Siewert: When would you have provided the previous advice to the minister around the payment that was announced in the budget? What is the timing of the advice you would have provided to government?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We provided extensive advice to government in the budget process, which has been running since before Christmas.</p> <p>Senator Siewert: I'm aware of that. I'm trying to ascertain when you would have provided the advice on the other payments.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: The other payments?</p> <p>Senator Siewert: The payment going to the other income support recipients.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'd have to take that on notice. I don't think we have a catalogue of every piece of advice we provided for the budget.</p> <p>Senator Siewert: Take on notice when that final advice was provided. I'm not asking for what was in it.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'll take that on notice.</p>	89
SQ19-000195	2 - Families and Communities	McAllister, Jenny	Dawn House - Financial Capabilities and Wellbeing Grants	<p>Senator McAllister: Sorry to do this, but can I just jump back to our particular thing about Financial Wellbeing and Capability. Have there been any changes in the last couple of days to the funding provided to Dawn House?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: Not at this stage.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: There has been no additional funding provided to Dawn House?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: I know that there have been discussions but, at this stage, I am not aware of a decision around that.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We can take that on notice and see whether there has been a decision. If the officers at the table are aware, we can have a look during the break.</p>	101-102
SQ19-000196	Cross Outcomes	McAllister, Jenny	Grants program funding	<p>Senator McAllister: For how many grant programs in that group of 1,011 has the minister rolled the funding over?</p> <p>Ms McKinnon: I don't have that data cut that way; we'll try to do it over the dinner break.</p>	102
SQ19-000197	1 - Social Security	McAllister, Jenny	Income Support for Seniors and the change in projections	<p>Senator McAllister: You provided average figures across the four-year period. What I would like to understand is, for example, the change in the projected number of recipients or the actual number of recipients expected in each of the forward years?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Sorry, we don't have the recipient numbers.</p> <p>Mr Bennett: I can give you the recipient numbers that we have now, and, obviously, we have given you an average of what the forecast is to decrease, but we would have to take that on notice to fully answer that question.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Is the profile consistent or does it jump around?</p>	97

SQ19-000200	Cross Outcomes	McAllister, Jenny	Social and Community Services (SaCS) Supplementation Funding	<p>Senator McAllister: I want to ask one last thing, and it's on a different question, which is about the SACS supplementation funding. I'm aware that the supplementation funding was not intended to extend to new programs that did not exist in February 2012. I am interested to understand which grant programs it applies to at the moment.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I think we would have to take that on notice, because that would be a really big job, trying to work out which ones it does and doesn't apply to.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Can I ask how many grant recipients?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: And a list of the grant recipients.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'll take that on notice. That's not something we have.</p>	102-103
SQ19-000201	2 - Families and Communities	Watt, Murray	Redress Scheme	<p>Senator Watt: Have any offers been deducted by an indexed amount of a previous payment?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Watt: How many?</p> <p>Mr Taloni: I don't think we have that with us, Senator. We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Watt: Do you know what the average amount by which the offer has been reduced is?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I suspect we are going to have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Watt: Maybe if you can tell me the number, the range, the average. That's good.</p>	105
SQ19-000202	2 - Families and Communities	Watt, Murray	Redress Scheme	<p>Senator Watt: I have some questions about the Redress Scheme. How many applications is the scheme receiving each week and each month?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: The scheme has received a total of approximately 3,300 applications. In terms of a monthly or weekly rate, I think it breaks down to around 100 per week.</p> <p>Mr Taloni: We would have to take that on notice. We've got an overarching figure: as at 22 March there are 3,303 applications.</p> <p>Senator Watt: So that's the number of applications received to date?</p> <p>Mr Taloni: As at 22 March.</p> <p>Senator Watt: When did applications start being received?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: First of July.</p> <p>Mr Taloni: It was open from 1 July. We'd have to double-check if the first one arrived on that date.</p>	103
SQ19-000206	2 - Families and Communities	Patrick, Rex	Advocacy Funding	<p>In a media article titled 'Legal gambit to cut charity funding' published on 31 March by The Saturday paper, it was reported that the Government was stopping funding for 'advocacy' to bodies like ACOSS, using the argument that it was unconstitutional because there is no head of power for it. Advocacy refers to advocating for change to policies. The article stated that ACOSS's funding was provided by the Department of Social Services, and that DSS had sent a letter with the above reasoning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you confirm that the Department of Social Services has sent letters to ACOSS and other organisations, informing them their funding for 'advocacy' has been discontinued? 2. Can you confirm that in these letters, it was stated that providing funding for advocacy was unconstitutional? 3. Was this statement based on legal advice? If so; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which Department sought the legal advice? b. On what date was the legal advice sought? c. Which legal practitioner provided the legal advice to the Department? d. What was the cost of that legal advice? e. Please provide this legal advice to the committee. 	Written
SQ19-000207	1 - Social Security	Griff, Stirling	Income Support Recipients - Bouts of Temporary Employment	How many income support recipients have repeated bouts of temporary employment?	Written
SQ19-000208	1 - Social Security	Griff, Stirling	Income Support Recipients - Tertiary Qualifications	<p>Is the Department able to advise what proportion of income support recipients have a tertiary qualification?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, how many have teaching qualifications? 	Written
SQ19-000210	1 - Social Security	McAllister, Jenny	Minister Fletcher Meeting Attendance	<p>Senator McAllister: In other forums, including media forums as well as in other estimates hearings, it has essentially been established that there was a meeting between the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Treasurer on two occasions on Tuesday night—once prior to cabinet and once after cabinet—where the potential change was discussed. Was Minister Fletcher present at those meetings?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: Senator, I am unaware of whether Minister Fletcher was present at those meetings. I can take it on notice.</p>	85

SQ19-000211	3 - Disability and Carers	Watt, Murray	Royal Commission costs	<p>Senator Watt: Yes. If you're able to break down that \$527 million—what it's going towards and to which agency—that would be helpful.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: Is that in Budget Paper No. 2?</p> <p>Senator Watt: I think all we've got at the moment is how much each agency is getting but it doesn't tell us what it's being used for.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I don't know that we'll know the detail behind Attorney-General's and—</p> <p>Senator Watt: No, I understand that. I'm only asking about things that I assume your department administers. I assume your department would be administering funding to advocacy organisations.</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: That's right.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'll see whether we can break that down a little more in the Department of Social Services one.</p>	92
SQ19-000212	3 - Disability and Carers	Griff, Stirling	Support for people with Autism	Aside from the NDIS and disability support pension, what funding or programs does DSS provide to support autistic people?	Written
SQ19-000213	2 - Families and Communities	McAllister, Jenny	Financial Counselling Services Review	<p>Senator McAllister: I did see that. All right. Has Ms Sylvan's review of financial counselling concluded? It has, hasn't it?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: Yes, it's been provided to the minister.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Can you tell us who was consulted as part of that review?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: I'll just get some other colleagues to the table, and they'll be able to answer that for you.</p> <p>Ms Foreman: Your question was about who we consulted as part of the Sylvan review?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Foreman: There were a large number of people who were consulted, ranging from financial institutions to not-for-profit organisations to various focus groups. We had a number of interviews and targeted surveys. I'm just getting a list.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Is it possible to obtain a list of the stakeholders who were consulted?</p> <p>Ms Foreman: We can table that.</p>	101
SQ19-000214	1 - Social Security	Griff, Stirling	Proportion of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients diagnosed with Autism	What proportion of people on the Disability Support Pension have been diagnosed with autism (as either primary or co-occurring diagnosis)?	Written
SQ19-000216	1 - Social Security	Griff, Stirling	Carer Payment - Recipients Moving to Aged Pension	<p>How many carers move from the Carer Payment to the aged pension? Please provide numbers and percentages for past three financial years.</p> <p>a. With those who move onto the aged pension, how many are on the full pension and how many on a part pension?</p> <p>b. Please also provide a break down of how many years these carers received the Carer Payment before moving to the aged pension.</p>	Written
SQ19-000217	1 - Social Security	Griff, Stirling	Carer Payment	<p>How many people on the Carer Payment were in receipt of another form of income/government support before going on Carer Payment?</p> <p>a. Is the department aware of how many people on Carer Payment were in paid work before becoming primary carers and going on the Carer Payment? If so, please provide figures for the past three financial years.</p>	Written
SQ19-000218	1 - Social Security	Griff, Stirling	Carer Payment	<p>How many carers who stop receiving the Carer Payment go on to paid work (or otherwise cease any reliance on income support). Please provide numbers and percentages for past three financial years.</p>	Written
SQ19-000219	3 - Disability and Carers	Griff, Stirling	Employment programs / incentive schemes for people with Autism	<p>ABS data suggests that autistic people have an unemployment rate of 31.6%, which is more than three times the rate of people with disability (10%). Given this very high rate of unemployment, what specific employment programs or incentive schemes exist to improve employment outcomes for autistic people?</p> <p>a. What funding is allocated to those and are they ongoing?</p>	Written
SQ19-000220	3 - Disability and Carers	Watt, Murray	Regional Delivery Partners (RDPs) Breakdown	<p>Senator Watt: are you able to provide a breakdown of that \$84.3 billion that has been announced? for instance, how much is for respite? how much is for young carers' respite? that kind of thing.</p> <p>Mr Moger: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Watt: I am running short of time. Do you have that in from that can be tabled?</p> <p>Mr Moger: Yes, we can</p>	118
SQ19-000221	3 - Disability and Carers	Watt, Murray	Integrated Carer Support Service (ICSS)	<p>Senator Watt: Does this include this new money?</p> <p>Mr Moger: Yes, that's correct. In 2020-21, it is \$134.2 million; 2021-22, \$143.3 million; and 2022-23, \$146.7 million.</p> <p>Senator Watt: And so those figures include implementation costs?</p> <p>Mr Moger: They do .</p> <p>Senator Watt: Is it possible to say how much of each of those amounts are implementation costs?</p> <p>Mr Moger: I am not sure. We might have to take it on notice.</p>	118

SQ19-000222	2 - Families and Communities	O'Neill, Deborah	Indigenous Grants Policy	<p>Ms Hefren-Webb: I might just add to this. All of our grants require that people demonstrate their ability to work in a culturally safe manner and appropriately, but I completely take your point that there is concern by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders that non-Aboriginal organisations who might claim that they do that don't do it as well as they could. We've got strategies in place, including an Indigenous grants policy which aims to ensure that, for grants that will have a significant impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Aboriginal organisations are encouraged and supported to apply. We've got consultation processes with Aboriginal communities that we operate throughout all of our policy areas. This is an issue which goes beyond this particular topic. It's an issue that we're very conscious of, and we're very—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Because there's a bit of a cultural collision, really, isn't there, in the way in which knowledge and leadership and the practice of doing work in community varies within the First Nations across different contexts? And that powerful knowledge doesn't always intersect with the linear, paper based processes of a large organisation that can fill in forms and get through the Canberra cold and the Canberra challenge of getting money.</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: Absolutely, Senator. That is feedback we've received from communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations frequently.</p>	108-109
SQ19-000230	3 - Disability and Carers	Watt, Murray	Royal Commission	<p>Senator Watt: Yes, we've got a couple more. It won't be too much longer, if it'd be okay for me to go on with that. Starting with the disability royal commission—again, I'm pretty confident that these are cross-portfolio matters—when was the department notified of the government's decision to establish a disability royal commission?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I'll just get officers from outcome 3 back to the table.</p> <p>Senator Watt: Thanks. Sorry, we're just doing a bit of time-checking here. When was the department notified of the government's decision to establish a disability royal commission?</p> <p>Mr Lye: We're just checking, Senator.</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: It was 19 February.</p> <p>Senator Watt: Who notified the department?</p> <p>Mr Lye: We might have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator Watt: You don't know, Mr Whitecross?</p> <p>Mr Whitecross: No, sorry, I don't know whether we got that information from PM&C or from the minister's office. I don't have that.</p>	90
SQ19-000233	1 - Social Security	McAllister, Jenny	Energy Assistance Payment	<p>Senator McALLISTER: May I just ask a follow-up question. Ms Burney had circulated an amendment that proposed a change to eligibility for the payment. It wasn't formally circulated, but it was known that Labor intended to move in that way. Did the department have a copy of Ms Burney's amendment?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Not that I'm aware.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: You never received a copy, Mr Williamson?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: No. I can take it on notice if anyone else did, but I don't have a copy of that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Ms Campbell, were you aware of that amendment?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I was unaware of that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: We were getting one drafted as well. Just to be complete, to make sure that you didn't have any awareness of ours, just in case they come back and say they didn't know, did you know about any amendments that were being drafted?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I did not receive a copy of any amendments. Senator Siewert, if it helps, just to go back, you asked about the energy assistance payment and who received that in the 2017-18 budget. The payments that were eligible were the aged pension, disability support pension, parenting payment single and veterans and their partners receiving qualifying payments under DVA.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.</p>	90

SQ19-000234	3 - Disability and Carers	Siewert, Rachel	Funding for Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to support client transition to NDIS	<p>Senator Siewert: We talked about the extra \$121 million this morning. Does the 25,000 participants include the PhaMs ones? Mr Whitecross: Yes. My understanding is that that includes PhaMs. Senator Siewert: As well as the health ones? Mr Whitecross: Yes. Senator Siewert: This is DSS programs. Are there any other programs that aren't listed here that potentially are transitioned? Mr Whitecross: There are two other health programs where some clients are transitioning. But they are not closing programs, they are continuing programs. Senator Siewert: So they don't count in terms of— Mr Whitecross: For example, some clients from the Hearing Services program will transition to the NDIS. But if they don't transition to the NDIS—the Hearing Services program is a continuing program, so they will still be supported. Senator Siewert: Are they included in the 25,000? Mr Whitecross: No. Senator Siewert: They are separate—on top of? Mr Whitecross: Of course, they are a continuing program. They are not in the estimate around the 25,000. The 25,000 are in these other programs that are meant to be closing. Senator Siewert: Therefore, we don't have an idea of how many in hearing, for example, will transition? Mr Whitecross: I think there is an estimate of how many will transition. Senator Siewert: But it's on top of the 25,000? Mr Whitecross: I believe so. Senator Siewert: Could you take it on to provide that...</p>	85
SQ19-000239	3 - Disability and Carers	Watt, Murray	National Disability	<p>Senator WATT: At the previous budget. So when the 2017-18 budget was brought down, a particular amount was anticipated to be spent on the NDIS. When we got to the 2018-19 budget it turned out that it had cost \$0.443 billion less, or it was expected to by 30 June. ... Ms Campbell: Yes. There was an original estimate at the 2018-19 budget for what was likely to be spent in 2018-19. There was an adjustment at the additional estimates 2018-19, which was in February, and there was a further adjustment at budget 2019-20 for the 2018-19 year. Senator WATT: Okay. And you add the two together? Ms Campbell: Yes. Senator WATT: I see. So, by additional estimates this year, February this year, it was expected that you'd be delivering \$1.003 billion less than you had predicted in the 2018-19 budget. Now that we've got to the 2019-20 budget, it turns out there's another \$0.935 billion that back in last year's budget you thought you'd spend this year and that has not been spent? Ms Campbell: That is expected not to be spent this year. Senator WATT: By the time you get to 30 June? Ms Campbell: Yes. Senator WATT: Right. And you don't have any figures before 2017-18? Mr Lye: We could take that on notice. Ms McDevitt: I would just note that in 2016-17 the funding went directly to the NDIA, so it was fully expended. Ms Campbell: Because there have been changes in how the funding goes to the agency and how the state moneys come in, we, the department, only have the money back to 2017-18, because that's when the department received the appropriation. Prior to that moneys were paid— Mr Lye: Directly. ... Senator WATT: Yes, but if I'm looking to identify what was spent versus what was expected to be spent, someone knows that? Ms Campbell: We'll ask the NDIA if they can see whether they'll have that information to hand; otherwise we'll take it on notice.</p>	79-80

National Disability Insurance Agency

PDR No	Outcome	Senator	Subject	Question	Hansard Page(s)/Written
SQ19-000169	NDIA	Watt, Murray	Other Pricing Increases	Senator Watt: Were there any other prices where it has been announced that there would be price rises in the order of 15 per cent? Mr De Luca: Sorry, Senator? Senator Watt: Apart from attendant care, were there other services that have now attracted a price rise in the order of 15 per cent or, say, above 10 per cent? Mr De Luca: I can't give you an answer on that. I'm happy to look into it.	116
SQ19-000170	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	National Disability Insurance Scheme Funding for Participants with Autism	What proportion of NDIS funding is allocated to people with autism?	Written
SQ19-000171	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Autism and Secondary Mental Health Conditions	How many people with autism also seek NDIS funding and services for co-occurring mental health conditions? a. How much is spent on this?	Written
SQ19-000172	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Autism Definition	During the Estimates round, the Chief Medical Officer made the point that "one of the challenges in the autism space is actually making a clear definition and a diagnosis of autism". What definition of autism does DSS and the NDIA use?	Written
SQ19-000173	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Autism DSM-V Levels Eligibility	Given autistic peoples' needs can fluctuate throughout their lifetime, why did the NDIA choose to use the DSM-V levels to determine eligibility of autistic people for the NDIS, given the manual states that it should not be used for such a purpose? a. Does this leave open the possibility that autistic people who move between levels over their life may miss out on much needed NDIS support?	Written
SQ19-000174	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Early Childhood Early Intervention Autism Diagnostic Tool	What diagnostic tool is being used for to determine eligibility for the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) scheme for young autistic children? Is it the DSM-V or is it a separate tool?	Written
SQ19-000175	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Early Childhood Early Intervention Diagnostic Levels	What diagnostic levels are funded under the ECEI?	Written
SQ19-000176	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Autistic Children Denial of Access	Are any autistic children being denied access to the scheme based on their level of diagnosis? What is the rationale for this?	Written
SQ19-000177	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Early Childhood Early Intervention Request Timeframes	What are the current average timeframes for processing an ECEI request (from entering the Scheme to a plan being finalised and funding provided)? Please provide a state breakdown.	Written
SQ19-000178	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Joint Standing Committee Early Childhood Early Intervention Recommendations to Reduce Delays	The progress report by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, tabled in March, made five recommendations to improve operation of the ECEI scheme and reduce delays. This included reducing the wait time to three months. a. Is this three-month time frame feasible and how long would it take to get waiting times down to this? b. What steps is the NDIA taking to achieve this? c. Will improved timeframes require increased funding to partners to manage the number of plans they have to process (as noted on p33 of the report)?	Written
SQ19-000179	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Provider Audits	Has the NDIA audited providers to know that they actually exist and are delivering stated services in locations given? a. How regularly is this done? b. When was the last audit?	Written
SQ19-000180	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Provider Locations	How many approved providers in each state and territory do not yet have a physical presence in stated location/s? a. Is this more acute in regional and rural areas?	Written
SQ19-000181	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Provider Location Complaints Process	What is the NDIA's process when a consumer reports that services or a provider location is not as stated by a provider/NDIA? a. What recourse do people have when this occurs - does the system have flexibility to allow people to find alternative providers who do exist and provide services needed?	Written
SQ19-000182	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Market Testing Misleading Conduct	Does the department consider this "market testing" (where a provider claims to be providing particular services in a location but isn't) to be misleading conduct on behalf of providers?	Written

SQ19-000183	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Active Providers in South Australia	The 2nd quarterly report to COAG for 2018-19 shows there are 3660 "approved providers" (p198) and 980 "approved active providers" (p 200) which indicates only 27% of approved providers are active in SA. What is the reason for this? a. Are all of the approved providers expected to become active in time? b. Is the NDIS system able to discern between "approved" and "active approved" in a region and does it only direct clients to active services? i. If so, how has the situation described in the ABC story arisen?	Written
SQ19-000184	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Stricter Provider Guidelines	Is the NDIA considering stricter guidelines in relation to who can be identified as an active provider of a service?	Written
SQ19-000185	NDIA	Griff, Stirling	Provider Penalties for Inaccurate Information	Is there any penalty for providers who give the NDIA inaccurate information?	Written