

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings

Department of Social Services

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000532	Abetz	Message from the Secretary	Please provide the messages (if any) sent to staff (on the most recent occasions) of Christmas/New Year, Easter and Ramadan by the Secretary of the Department at the relevant time.	Written
SQ17-000533	Abetz	Enterprise Agreement 2015-18	In the most recent Enterprise Agreement negotiations, was/were any side-agreement/s, protocol/s, arrangement/s, agreement/s entered into? If so, please provide a copy.	Written
SQ17-000534	Brown	Government responses to Committee reports	Are there any outstanding responses government responses to Committee reports?	10 - 25 October
SQ17-000535	Siewert	NDIS rollout in Western Australia	How many meetings has the Department had with the Western Australian Government and its representatives regarding the bilateral agreement? i) has a timeframe been discussed with the Western Australian Government to resolve this issue. Is there a timeframe to resolve that?	19 - 25 October
SQ17-000536	Siewert	National Disability Strategy Second Implementation Plan	In regard to the research project to support prisoners and ex-prisoners with disability and also the integrated health and education approaches to support students, were they chosen because they were two key priority areas that people like the First Peoples Disability Network articulated were the keys?	39 - 25 October
SQ17-000537	Siewert	National Disability Strategy Second Implementation Plan	How is the \$3 million funding divided up between the prisoners and ex-prisoners with disability project and the integrated health and education approaches to support students project.	40 - 25 October
SQ17-000538	Siewert	Aged Care Funding Instrument	Under what provision of the Act has the decision been made regarding cross billing arrangements and what happens if someone is assessed as needing more personal care and support than they can get in aged care under ACFI?	49 - 25 October
SQ17-000539	Singh	National Housing and Homelessness Agreement	Are the States and Territories required to match Commonwealth funding as part of the legislation introduced by the Treasurer today?	52 - 25 October
SQ17-000540	Singh	National Housing and Homelessness Agreement	Have the States and Territories agreed to the legislation that the Government has bought forward today into the NHHA?	55 - 25 October
SQ17-000541	Hanson	Public Housing	Do humanitarian entrants have priority over Australians in receiving public housing?	57 - 25 October

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SQ17-000542	Singh	National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness	Has there been additional support measures for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, and whether they have been delivered as additional support measures in this project? In particular, it was women and children experiencing family violence, young people at-risk of homelessness and at-risk children.	61 - 25 October
SQ17-000543	Singh	National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness	Has there been an increase in the availability of stable accommodation in New South Wales for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness?	61/62 - 25 October
SQ17-000544	Singh	National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness	What reforms of service delivery have been implemented in New South Wales?	62 - 25 October
SQ17-000545	Watt	Try, Test and Learn Fund	Were any of the co-design participants of the 3 initiatives announced asked not to bid to deliver their initiatives?	67 - 25 October
SQ17-000546	Pratt	Energy Supplement	Do you have an updated figure to June 2021 of the number of people that will have been made worse off by the policy of axing the Energy Supplement?	77 - 25 October
SQ17-000547	Pratt	Energy Supplement	Can you provide updated numbers on the number of people who have come onto energy supplement since the 16 September date to the present?	78 - 25 October
SQ17-000548	Singh	UK Pensions	Has the government sought to initiate any discussions with the UK government on this issue of pension indexation this year?	79 - 25 October
SQ17-000550	Pratt	Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse	In relation to the report, what action has been taken around services to individuals with problematic sexual thoughts. What helplines are available to children/adults who have problematic sexual thoughts?	83 - 25 October
SQ17-000552	Leyonhjelm	Violence against Women campaign	Please provide the list of sources for the Stop It At The Start Campaign.	89 - 25 October
SQ17-000553	Kakoschke-Moore	Cashless Debit Card	Can you please advise how many times since 15 March 2016 and 26 April 2016 Minister Tudge visited the communities in Ceduna and surrounding areas and the East Kimberley?	91 - 25 October
SQ17-000554	Pratt	Cashless Debit Card	What advertising took place for the Cashless Debit Card consultations?	93 - 25 October
SQ17-000555	Pratt	Cashless Debit Card	What other sites were considered by the department for further rollout of the card? And why they were deemed unsuitable for the rollout relative to these locations? What evidence did you the Department provide the Government in terms of weighing up locations?	93 - 25 October
SQ17-000556	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card / ORIMA Report	Who from the Aboriginal Community was involved in the steering committee to review the ORIMA wave 2 report. Please provide external people involved in the review	95 - 25 October
SQ17-000557	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card / ORIMA Report	What was the nature of the feedback provided to ORIMA in terms of statistical analysis?	95 - 25 October

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SQ17-000558	Hinch	Drug Testing Trials	Why did the Department opt for the BasicsCard instead of the Cashless Debit Card for the drug test trials?	96 - 25 October
SQ17-000559	Pratt	Child Support	When did the review of the child support formula commence and when will it be completed?	98 - 25 October
SQ17-000560	Pratt	Second Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children	Of the \$100 million allocated, how much was spent?	99/100 - 25 October
SQ17-000561	Siewert	Community Resilience Grants	How many applicants were excluded because they didn't tick the box identifying they will have a 'Harmony Day Event'?	102 - 25 October
SQ17-000562	Pratt	National Rental Affordability Scheme	Has the Department been contacted by investors affected by this [allegations that incentive payments for Ethan Affordable Housing allocations have been withheld from NRAS investors]? How many complaints have been received?	58 - 25 October
SQ17-000563	Singh	National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness	Has there been a reduction in homelessness in New South Wales?	61 - 25 October
SQ17-000564	Pratt	Cashless Debit Card	Could the committee please request a copy of the write-up of those [the Cashless Debit Card] information sessions? If you could please provide a list of organisations and individuals with a title—I understand that people who are individual citizens might not want to have their identity revealed, but if you met with councillors et cetera I would be interested in the list of organisations in each location, please.	92/93 - 25 October
SQ17-000565	Cameron	National Rental Affordability Scheme	How many applications to transfer an Allocation to another rental dwelling has the Department received from Ethan Affordable Housing Limited? a. When were they received? b. How many dwellings are covered by the applications? c. For what reason/s were the applications made? d. How many of the applications have been approved and how many dwellings are covered by the approved applications? e. How many have been refused and if any, for what reason/s?	Written

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SQ17-000566	Cameron	National Rental Affordability Scheme	Has the Department received any applications to transfer an Allocation to another Approved Participant from Ethan Affordable Housing Limited? If so, how many applications have been received and how many Allocations are the subject of the applications? a. For what reasons were the applications made? b. How many of Ethan's Allocations have been approved for transfer? c. To which Approved Participant/s have allocations been transferred, if any? d. How many have been refused for transfer and if any, for what reasons? e. How many applications are still under consideration and how many Allocations are the subject of those applications?	Written
SQ17-000567	Pratt	Community Resilience Grants	Why is Harmony Day so vital to being eligible for funding?	102 - 25 October
SQ17-000568	Pratt	Program Redesigns	Please provide an updated list of all DSS programs subject to redesign, by outcome – if this has changed since you provided this information after Additional Estimates.	Written
SQ17-000569	Pratt	Program Redesigns	Are there any plans to undertake additional redesigns of grant programs?	Written
SQ17-000570	Pratt	Program Redesigns	Can the department provide redesign papers or consultation papers?	Written
SQ17-000571	Pratt	Program Redesigns	Can the department provide a list of stakeholders consulted for outcome 2.1 redesigns?	Written
SQ17-000572	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	How many parents is the Building Capacity in Australian Parents trial targeting?	Written
SQ17-000573	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	One of the Action points under Strategy 1 of the Third Action Plan, point 1.2, is that the Commonwealth is to develop and trial and effective model of services and support focused on the first 1000 days to better support ATSI families and children. What work is being done in this area and how much funding is allocated to this specific action point?	Written
SQ17-000574	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	Is there any other work being done under strategy 1 of the Third Action Plan?	Written
SQ17-000575	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	How many young people is the Towards Independent Adulthood trial targeting? Are there any plans to expand the Towards Independent Adulthood Trial, in terms of increasing the number of young people or the number of locations?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000576	Siewert	NDIS Legislation	<p>1. What formal consultation did the Government or NDIA conduct on both Schedules 1 and 2 of the NDIS Amendment (Quality and Safeguards Commission and Other Measures) Bill? Please outline who was consulted and when.</p> <p>2. With regards to Schedule 2 of the Bill, what consultation did the Government undertake on these amendments – noting that most submissions to the Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the Bill did not support them?</p> <p>3. Can the Government provide a list of the organisations consulted, how they were consulted and the dates?</p>	Written
SQ17-000577	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	Under strategy 2 you are also working with the ACT government on evaluating jurisdictions' policies to extend statutory responsibility and access to services beyond the age of 18 to young people in out of home care. Can you give me an update on this work– where is it at? Is there any other work being done under strategy 2 of the Third Action Plan?	Written
SQ17-000578	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	Under Strategy 3 of the Third Action Plan you are working with the National Children's Commissioner and the NSW Government on developing a National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations. Where is this work at and when will there be a finalised national statement?	Written
SQ17-000579	Siewert	NDIS Legislation	Why was the bill tabled before the NDIS Code of Conduct process was completed?	Written
SQ17-000580	Siewert	NDIS Legislation	The amendments proposed in the Bill on chronic disease have raised considerable concern from the disability sector. Has the Government responded to these concerns? Have there been discussions with the states and territories and/or an analysis of what funding to assist people with a disability and chronic illness has transitioned from state and territory disability budgets to the NDIS?	Written
SQ17-000581	Siewert	NDIS Funding	Is the Government aware that some community based disability support groups are winding up as a result of changed funding following the introduction of the NDIS? If so, is the Government considering alternative approaches to fund such groups? If not aware, will you follow this issue up?	Written
SQ17-000582	Siewert	YPIRAC	Can you provide me with the most recent figures on the number of young people residing in nursing homes, broken down by state and territory? Please provide for below and over 50 years.	Written
SQ17-000585	Siewert	Disability Employment Services (DES)	How many complaints have been received by the Department of Social Services (DSS) about Disability Employment Services (DES) providers broken down by a. year b. state and territory.	Written
SQ17-000586	Siewert	Disability Employment Services (DES)	How many of these complaints (DES) resulted in DSS taking action against a disability employment service provider broken down by a. year b. state and territory	Written

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SQ17-000587	Siewert	Disability Employment Services (DES)	How many of these complaints (DES) were subsequently referred to the Commonwealth Ombudsman broken down by a. year b. state and territory	Written
SQ17-000588	Siewert	Disability Employment Services (DES)	In how many instances has the Commonwealth Ombudsman taken issue with DSS's handling of a complaint against a disability job service provider broken down by a. year b. state and territory	Written
SQ17-000589	Siewert	Mental health, comorbidity and budget measures	In relation to QON SQ17-000520, given there is no current data on this, how does the Government intend to address this issue?	Written
SQ17-000590	Siewert	Defined Benefits	What is the total number of people on defined benefits?	Written
SQ17-000592	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	What work is being done on how these principles will be enforced in terms of making sure compliance from the states?	Written
SQ17-000593	Siewert	Community Resilience Grants	How many community organisations were excluded from consideration for Community Resilience Grants because they did not include a Harmony Day event in their project proposals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this an official policy? • What is the rationale for excluding projects that do not include Harmony Day events? • Are organisations notified that proposals that do not include a Harmony Day event will be excluded? • What consideration is given to proposals where a Harmony Day event is not relevant or appropriate? 	Written
SQ17-000594	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	In terms of the work the department is doing on interjurisdictional data sharing to develop a best practice model of information exchange. What progress has been made on this working group?	Written
SQ17-000595	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	Do you expect that there will be practices which can be implemented across states, nationally, in partnerships with the states, coming out of this work into interjurisdictional data sharing?	Written
SQ17-000596	Siewert	Adoptions	Are persons who adopt their children out required to provide relevant health information that can be accessed by their birth child/ren at a later stage in life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Government considering funding genetic testing for adoptees once they reach 18 years of age? 	Written

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SQ17-000597	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	How does the department monitor the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle? Are you tracking the progress in each state on this?	Written
SQ17-000598	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	How are you working with the states to make sure the placement principle is being implemented?	Written
SQ17-000599	Pratt	Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children	Can you provide details of the most recent report to the National Forum for Protecting Australia's Children of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working group?	Written
SQ17-000600	Pratt	Volunteer Grants	Has a decision been made on the timeline for the next round of Volunteer Grants? When will the round open? Can you confirm the amount of funding available?	Written
SQ17-000601	Pratt	Families and Children Expert Panel	Who sits on this panel? What work is currently being undertaken by the panel?	Written
SQ17-000602	Pratt	Families and Children Expert Panel	What kind of evaluation assistance does the panel give – is it practical assistance or just advice? What research and evaluation activities does the panel undertake? Is there any funding attached to this work? How much?	Written
SQ17-000603	Pratt	Families and Children Expert Panel	Is it optional for organisations funded under the Family and Children program to use the services of this panel, or is it part of their contractual obligations?	Written
SQ17-000604	Pratt	Families and Children Expert Panel	Has the department had feedback from Family and Children service providers as to their experiences with the panel? If so, what is the nature of that feedback?	Written
SQ17-000605	Watt	NDIS and Employment	Will any form of employment be ineligible for support under the NDIS?	Written
SQ17-000606	Watt	NDIS and Employment	Will employment in an Australian Disability Employer be eligible? Will employment outside an ADE be eligible?	Written
SQ17-000607	Brown	NILS Funding	How much funding did Good Shepherd receive in total per year to deliver the No Interest Loans Scheme since 2014-15? Can the Department provide how much funding Good Shepherd Microfinance (GSM) will receive in 2017-18 and across the forward estimates?	Written
SQ17-000608	Brown	NILS Funding	Can the Department provide a detailed breakdown across each state and territory of the funding that is allocated to GSM to deliver the No Interest Loans Scheme?	Written

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SQ17-000609	Watt	NDIS and Employment	What form will any support that is provided take? Will wage subsidies be paid? Will subsidies be available for any transport to workplaces?	Written
SQ17-000610	Watt	NDIS and Employment	Will any tools or assessments be used to establish eligibility for employment support for NDIS participants - if so which tools or assessments?	Written
SQ17-000611	Watt	NDIS and Employment	Will support for adjustment necessary for participation in the workplace be eligible for NDIS support?	Written
SQ17-000612	Watt	Try, Test and Learn Fund	What was the total budget for the process around the three announced initiatives?	Written
SQ17-000613	Watt	Try, Test and Learn Fund	What has been the total cost of consultants to date in the TTL process? Is this a subset of the \$96 million funding?	Written
SQ17-000614	Brown	State Based Disability Advocacy	If States reduce funding or don't meet their responsibilities, will the Federal Government fill the void? Does the Government agree that State funded Disability Advocacy bodies should be able to determine the issues and cases that are taken up?	Written
SQ17-000615	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Does the Minister agree that government should support disability advocacy so that people with disabilities can exercise their rights and freedoms?	Written
SQ17-000616	Watt	Try, Test and Learn Fund	When will the TTL initiatives for young parents and students be announced? What is the delay?	Written
SQ17-000617	Brown	NILS Funding	Have there been any cuts to NILS funding to any organisations delivering the program?	Written
SQ17-000618	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Recently concluded DRO tender funding runs to 30 June 2020 with the possibility of an extension until 2022 – how will it be determined which funding continues beyond 2020 and which doesn't? Which of the programmes have been extended? By what time period?	Written
SQ17-000619	Brown	Disability Advocacy	The Disability Representative Organisations – Grant Opportunity Guidelines use a new format compared to the 2014 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme, Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Guidelines Overview. Why has a new format been adopted?	Written
SQ17-000620	Watt	FTB Indexation freeze	What would have been the increase to the maximum rate of FTB A in each age group, this year had the rate not been frozen? What would have been the increase to the rate of FTB B this year had the rate not been frozen?	Written
SQ17-000621	Brown	Disability Advocacy	The funding seems prescriptive - why is it restricted to DSS priorities?	Written

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SQ17-000622	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What specific activities or activity that DROs were able to undertake under the previous guidelines have been excluded from eligibility for grant funding under the 2017 Guidelines? What activities or activity are subject to greater restrictions under the 2017 Guidelines, in comparison with the 2014 Guidelines?	Written
SQ17-000623	Brown	NILS Funding	Is the Minister aware of any changes to the distribution of NILS funding or any cuts to organisations delivering the NILS program in any state or territory? If yes, what is the Minister doing about the funding cuts? Under the contract with the Department of Social Services does GSM have discretion to determine the distribution of funding amongst state and territory NILS providers?	Written
SQ17-000624	Watt	FTB Indexation freeze	Can you please confirm the current number of FTB A families and FTB B families impacted by the freeze? Can you please provide this information by state and by electorate?	Written
SQ17-000625	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What consultation was undertaken with DROs about changes to the Guidelines prior to releasing the 2017 Guidelines?	Written
SQ17-000626	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Why have changes been made to the Guidelines? When have funded organisations caused the Government problems through their advocacy work?	Written
SQ17-000627	Brown	NILS Funding	Can the Department confirm if the distribution of NILS funding allocated by GSM is based on local need? If yes, can the Department provide details in relation to how the funds are distributed in response to local need? If not, can the Department provide details about how it monitors the distribution of NILS funding by GSM?	Written
SQ17-000628	Brown	Disability Advocacy	How have the eligibility criteria (listed on page 11-12) changed from the previous tender process in 2014? Why were these changes made? What is the Department trying to achieve through making these changes?	Written
SQ17-000629	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Does the Government consider it prudent to encourage DROs to engage in debt financing? (See page 19 of 2017 Guidelines)	Written
SQ17-000630	Brown	National Disability Strategy Second Implementation Plan	1. When will the second Progress Report on the NDS be released? 2. What work is being undertaken to write this report?	Written
SQ17-000631	Watt	Bereavement Allowance	How many people each year receive the Bereavement Allowance? Can you please provide this figure broken down by State? Of these recipients, how many claim the full 14 weeks?	Written
SQ17-000632	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Why do applicants need an Australian Registered Body Number? (See page 11)	Written

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SQ17-000633	Brown	Disability Advocacy	I understand that some currently funded DROs have no ARBN and to get one could take a month and cost \$400. So am I correct in thinking that from the time the Guidelines were released to the closing date it is unlikely organisations that didn't have an ARBN could have secured one to become eligible?	Written
SQ17-000634	Brown	National Disability Strategy Second Implementation Plan	1. Have any stakeholder forums been held to discuss the National Disability Strategy? 2. If not, why not?	Written
SQ17-000635	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Why is there a requirement for greater cooperation and interaction between DROs? (See Appendix 5 Page 53)	Written
SQ17-000636	Watt	Bereavement Allowance	Annually, how many claimants of Bereavement Allowance are expectant mothers?	Written
SQ17-000637	Brown	Disability Advocacy	How were these expectations and values (appendix 5 – Page 53) developed? What previous issues are these values and expectations designed to address? Are these requirements new?	Written
SQ17-000638	Watt	Bereavement Allowance	What is the saving associated with rolling the Bereavement Allowance in to the Jobseeker Payment?	Written
SQ17-000639	Brown	Disability Advocacy	How is intersectionality addressed within the funding guidelines?	Written
SQ17-000640	Watt	Bereavement Allowance	How many people each year who would be eligible to receive the Bereavement Allowance under the current income test, would be ineligible under the income test put forward in the Welfare Reform Bill?	Written
SQ17-000641	Brown	National Disability Strategy Second Implementation Plan	1. What steps, if any, have been taken to reinvigorate the National Disability Strategy? 2. What options for reinvigoration has the Senior Officers Working Group discussed at its monthly telepresence meetings? 3. What plans does the Government have to reinvigorate the Strategy or talk to stakeholders about reinvigoration options?	Written
SQ17-000642	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What increase has been applied to NDIS appeals funding?	Written
SQ17-000643	Watt	Bereavement Allowance	How much worse off will a person be who claims the full 14 weeks? By what range will a pregnant woman be worse off? What is the greatest amount by which a pregnant woman would be worse off?	Written
SQ17-000644	Watt	Age Pension	Between 2025-29 it has been estimated that around 375,000 people will be affected by the plan to increase the pension age to 70, can you confirm this number, and provide it split by State and by gender?	Written

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SQ17-000645	Watt	National Disability Strategy	What progress has been made in improving access other than in minimal improvement in housing, which tends to be resisted where extra expense is involved?	Written
SQ17-000646	Watt	Age Pension	Please provide some examples which show the difference in pensioners' financial positions under current deeming arrangements, and if they had been adjusted in line with interest rates since March 2015.	Written
SQ17-000647	Brown	Disability Advocacy	How does DSS define "domestic systemic disability purposes"? (See page 56). Does this mean that the funding is only for domestic purposes?	Written
SQ17-000650	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Do the Guidelines prohibit international work – for example can work no longer be done for the United Nations?	Written
SQ17-000652	Brown	Disability Advocacy	How much funding is available through the National Disability Conference initiative?	Written
SQ17-000653	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What can National Disability Conference initiative funding be used for? Is it only for conferences in Australia? Is international conference attendance outside Australia barred? Why? What else is specifically excluded under this initiative?	Written
SQ17-000654	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Will successful organisations be able to undertake work related to the six other international human rights treaties to which Australia is a party?	Written
SQ17-000655	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Will DROs be eligible for funding to attend international conferences outside Australia?	Written
SQ17-000656	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What process is used to assess Annual Activity Work Plans? (See page 17) Who assesses Annual Activity Work Plans? On what basis are Annual Activity Work Plans rejected? How often has this happened in the past year?	Written
SQ17-000657	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What is the membership of the Expert Panel? (Page 19) What opportunities are provided for organisations that may be subject to Expert Panel decisions or recommendations about consortium membership to appeal decisions or recommendations or to provide further information?	Written
SQ17-000658	Brown	National Disability Strategy	What progress has been made in making communities more inclusive?	Written
SQ17-000659	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Why is a period of 6 weeks notice (page 56 7.1) required for events to which the Minister or Assistant Minister may be invited?	Written
SQ17-000660	Brown	Disability Advocacy	What does "reasonable notice" mean in the context of publishing media releases that may be considered to be sensitive (page 55)?	Written

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SQ17-000661	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Don't all these requirements for notice seem excessive? Is the Government sensitive about criticism from disability advocates? Why?	Written
SQ17-000662	Watt	Paid Parental Leave	How many families have accessed Paid Parental Leave since it began in 2011? Can you provide this figure for each year, and by State and Electorate? Can you also provide this information for Dad and Partner Pay?	Written
SQ17-000663	Brown	National Disability Strategy	Is this Government really committed to an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens?	Written
SQ17-000664	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Do the Guidelines encourage organisations to form alliances? Does the Guidelines allow funding for any coordination of organisations that form part of an alliance, under these guidelines? not, how are alliances to be coordinated? (Carolyn Frohmader has indicated that the Guidelines encourage alliances funding for coordination of organisations is not provided – this is odd)	Written
SQ17-000665	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Why is there no additional funding for Disability Representative Organisations (DRO's) from 2014 to 2022?	Written
SQ17-000666	Brown	National Disability Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a DSS departmental committee with the task of considering ways in which to reinvigorate the National Disability Strategy? 2. Which other Departmental Committees regularly consider this matter? 3. Who is the most senior person on the departmental committee? 4. When did it last meet? 5. what is the membership of this committee? 	Written
SQ17-000667	Brown	Disability Advocacy	Can you provide a list of successful DRO's from the last grant round and their grant funding amount by financial year.	Written
SQ17-000668	Brown	Respite for people living with dementia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the subsidy for respite for people with mental illness? 2. How many people have received respite through this Program? 3. What is the average length of respite stay? 4. What measures are used to determine whether or not this program is successful? 	Written
SQ17-000669	Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	When will the final shape of the Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services be announced? How many carers are there in each cohort, nation wide?	Written
SQ17-000670	Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	Does the Government plan to introduce pilot projects or trials of Regional Hubs to test the Draft Service model?	Written
SQ17-000671	Watt	Citizenship	Was Sen. Seselja, as Assistant Minister for Social Services, consulted regarding the impact of the proposed changes to the Citizenship Act on DSS Settlement programs for refugees and humanitarian entrants?	Written

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SQ17-000672	Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	When will a tender be released for these Regional Hub pilots? How many pilots will there be? Will these trials only test a limited range or number of services?	Written
SQ17-000673	Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	Which electorates will the regional hub pilots or trials be based in?	Written
SQ17-000674	Brown	Temporary Respite for carers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the level of subsidy to respite providers for temporary respite for carers? Is this payment in line with respite offered in ageing area and if not why not? 2. From which fund is temporary respite for carers funded? 3. What is the total allocation? 4. How much has been spent so far this year? 5. How much was spent of the money allocated last year? 	Written
SQ17-000675	Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	Who has been consulted in developing the plans for the regional hub pilot or trial schemes?	Written
SQ17-000676	Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	Does the decision to test the regional hub model via a pilot symbolise this Government's failure to plan the first part of the Integrated Plan properly? Wasn't the Carer Gateway simply a duplication of existing services provided through Carers Australia?	Written
SQ17-000677	Watt	Citizenship	How does Sen. Seselja respond to the concerns expressed by the Australian Multicultural Council criticising the impact of the tougher english language requirements on refugees and humanitarian entrants?	Written
SQ17-000678	Brown	Recently announced new programs for Young Carers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the evidence say about how many young carers in the catchment areas for these programs will be able to participate in these programs? 2. Will participation be compulsory? 	Written
SQ17-000679	Brown	New plan for Indigenous people with disability	From which funds has this plan been funded? What is the timeline for the two projects? Where are the projects taking place? What milestones must be reached?	Written
SQ17-000680	Watt	18C	In light of the Final Report of the Select Committee on Strengthening Multiculturalism, what steps will be taken to promote multiculturalism and protect CALD communities throughout the law?	Written
SQ17-000681	Watt	Multicultural Affairs	What research has DSS conducted or commissioned to support its policy development on multiculturalism, settlement and social cohesion? How much funding has been allocated to this research, and what has been found?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000682	Brown	Recently announced new programs for Young Carers	How much assessment will be done to ensure that potential participants are able to manage their caring responsibilities and participate in these programs?	Written
SQ17-000683	Watt	Settlement and Community Support	What outcomes have been delivered by the DSS Settlement and Community Support programs?	Written
SQ17-000684	Watt	Settlement and Community Support	How does DSS plan to accommodate and support the needs of new migrants in light of a \$78.9 million funding cut to its Settlement Services this year?	Written
SQ17-000685	Brown	New plan for Indigenous people with disability	Who will oversee these projects? Which indigenous people or organisations are included in project governance arrangements? Will interim reports be made available?	Written
SQ17-000688	Brown	Certificates for Young Carers	When does the Government propose to issue the first certificates for carers who have completed a full year of study?	Written
SQ17-000690	Brown	Recently announced new programs for Young Carers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What savings does the Government believe will be realised through these programs? 2. When will these programs start? 3. What are the success criteria? 	Written
SQ17-000691	Brown	Certificates for Young Carers	What consultation has been conducted with employers to promote the value or contribution of carers?	Written
SQ17-000692	Watt	Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants	What outcomes have been delivered from the MAFG program?	Written
SQ17-000693	Brown	Recently announced new programs for Young Carers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why were these particular locations chosen? 2. Which electorates will these programs cover? 	Written
SQ17-000694	Brown	Certificates for Young Carers	What will be the process be for applying for and for receiving a certificate? Will there be any minimum hours of study requirements to qualify for a certificate? When will the first certificate be awarded?	Written
SQ17-000695	Watt	Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants	Will the MAFG program continue to fund events held at the limit of the last funding round? What is the timeline for the next round of funding applications?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000696	Watt	Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants	How much funding has DSS allocated to MAFG in 2017-18? How many has been spent and how much remains?	Written
SQ17-000697	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	1. How many ADEs are currently using competency as opposed to productivity-based wage setting tools? 2. How many are using productivity-based tools?	Written
SQ17-000698	Brown	Certificates for Young Carers	What is the estimated cost of this program? Who will administer the program? How will the program be advertised?	Written
SQ17-000699	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	How many people in total are on the card in the existing sites?	Written
SQ17-000700	Brown	Interdepartmental Committee for the NDIS	Is there an interdepartmental committee for the NDIS? What is the makeup of the committee? How often does the Committee meet? When did it last meet?	Written
SQ17-000701	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	What was the outcome of the Fair Work supervised trials of the productivity based Supported Wage System? Can you provide us with a copy of the findings?	Written
SQ17-000702	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	On Page 82 of the final report ORIMA report, section 'Impact of the card on your life' the overall data states: 23% of people say it has made their life better, yet 32% say their lives are worse and 42% say no change. How does the ORIMA data demonstrate that the CDC is achieving its stated objectives in reducing the consumption of alcohol, illegal drug use, and gambling?	Written
SQ17-000703	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	What is the process for someone to be removed from the card, and who are the decision makers?	Written
SQ17-000704	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	Does the Government still support the modified Supported Wage system?	Written
SQ17-000705	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	How many people in each site have had the proportion of income quarantined on the card reduced? Can you give this figure for both the East Kimberley and Ceduna? By what proportions have the payments been reduced?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000706	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	Can the Government explain why so little funding has been accessed by ADEs to assist in the transition?	Written
SQ17-000707	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	When does the funding for wrap around services in the East Kimberley and Ceduna run out? What plans have been made for participants to access these services after the funding has finished?	Written
SQ17-000708	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	According to the ORIMA report, in the East Kimberley, 20% of respondents said there has been more drinking and 18% said there has been less. In Ceduna, 14% said more, 23% said less, but 25% couldn't say. The largest proportion in each site said that the level of drinking was the same. Was any substance use data taken from participants and was any data taken on the sales of alcohol?	Written
SQ17-000709	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	Does the Government believe that the introduction of the SWS will make ADEs unviable?	Written
SQ17-000710	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	What wrap around services were available in each of the sites before the trials began? How effective were they?	Written
SQ17-000711	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	How does the ORIMA data show a reduction in crime, violence, and harm related to these behaviours when assault incident reports from the Western Australian Police show that violence increased sharply since the trial began in the East Kimberley in 2016? Was this investigated by the evaluators?	Written
SQ17-000712	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	Why was the contract for the cashless debit card put out to limited tender?	Written
SQ17-000713	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	What has the Government done to calm the fears of the ADEs, ADE employees and families about the impact of the new wage setting systems?	Written
SQ17-000714	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	Can you confirm the cost of the evaluation by ORIMA research, it was about \$1.6 million, wasn't it? Does the Department think the ORIMA evaluation was of high quality?	Written
SQ17-000715	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	What peer assessment was done before publication of the ORIMA research? How were people invited to participate in the ORIMA research?	Written
SQ17-000716	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	With respect to the evaluation do you agree that it was a flawed approach to ask respondents to give their ID to the interviewer, because it's likely they might have said exactly what they thought the interviewer wanted to hear, and certainly would not have incriminated themselves about any behaviours?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000717	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	Were interviewees offered compensation for participating in the ORIMA interview including promises of a gift card, \$30 or \$50 on completion?	Written
SQ17-000718	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	How much funding remains available to ADEs to assist in transition? What can that money be used for?	Written
SQ17-000719	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	According to the report, in the East Kimberley, 20% of respondents said there has been more drinking and 18% said there has been less. Doesn't this show that the perception of change in the community as a result of the card is mixed?	Written
SQ17-000720	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	Given that the Minister has said there has been a positive change in the targeted behaviours, why do you think that, according to the evaluation, perceptions of safety and the levels of violence have not improved? Isn't it the case that in the East Kimberley, these are far worse?	Written
SQ17-000721	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	What ethics clearance process was used for validating the research process?	Written
SQ17-000722	Brown	New wage setting tool for Australian Disability Enterprises	Is the Government currently discussing with ADEs how it can better assist ADEs in the transition to the new tool? What options/measures are being discussed?	Written
SQ17-000723	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card Trials in Ceduna and East Kimberley	In a research Paper by Dr Janet Hunt ('The Cashless Debit Card Evaluation: Does it really prove success?'), the Prime Minister is quoted as saying in Western Australia on 3 September: 'It's seen a massive reduction in alcohol abuse, in drug abuse, in domestic violence, in violence generally; a really huge improvement in the quality of life, not just for the families who are using the Cashless Welfare Card, but for the whole community. But above all, it's an investment in the future of the children. Can you confirm if the Prime Minister made those comments? Is it accurate to say that the press release in which those comments are documented has been removed from the Prime Ministers website?	Written
SQ17-000724	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	Has the program logic been reviewed since receiving the evaluation, given that reductions in the target behaviours were expected to result in reduced violence and increased safety?	Written
SQ17-000725	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	Can you describe how the Risk-Adjusted outcome fees have been built? How are participants assigned from Level 1 to Level 5 funding?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000726	Carr	National Disability Insurance Scheme	The answers provided to SQ-000207, 214 and 216 are identical. In each case, none of these answers provides a satisfactory response to the question asked. All of these questions go to this issue: it is <i>prima facie</i> discriminatory to deny people access to any service on an arbitrary administrative basis, rather than on the basis of need. It would be appreciated if you could provide the Committee with clear answers to the following questions: Can the Government satisfy the Committee that denying people access to the NDIS on the basis of the date of the Scheme's roll-out in their area does not constitute discrimination on the basis of age? Specifically, can the Government satisfy the Committee that this practice does not contravene the Age Discrimination Act 2004? If you cannot, can the Government justify this discrimination? On what basis?	Written
SQ17-000727	Watt	Cashless Debit Card	Of the existing trial sites, can you provide an indication of the number of participants who actually engaged in alcohol and/or drug misuse or abuse, or had a gambling addiction, and isolate whether those people's lives had improved or worsened as a result of the trial? Are you able to provide this data by payment type?	Written
SQ17-000728	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	Will the sector have access to how the Risk Adjusted payment model works and the report that DSS commissioned to produce this model?	Written
SQ17-000729	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	If the risk adjusted outcome payments are mostly determined by individual characteristics and labour market characteristics, why is it that so many people with Intellectual Disability have been assessed as Bandwidth 1 and 2 levels?	Written
SQ17-000730	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	The new DES proposes to allow an extra 1000 students with disability to access the DES program. How will these changes allow students with disability to be able to access DES assistance earlier to make a more effective transition from school to work?	Written
SQ17-000731	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	The move to a Choice and Control model means that a participant chooses their provider. How will participants be informed of providers in their region that best suits their employment goals? How informed will that choice be?	Written
SQ17-000732	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	Can you describe how the new Performance Framework will operate in the new DES? What will be the rolling period of data for Star Ratings?	Written
SQ17-000733	Carr	Eligibility for NDIS assistance for those aged over 65	Unfortunately you did not provide a direct answer to SQ16-000209. Can you please inform the Committee whether the Government will consider rendering all potential beneficiaries of the NDIS eligible from 1 July 2016, regardless of where they live? It is noted that such a provision would require retrospective application.	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000734	Brown	New Disability Employment Services Model	In the Disability Employment Services Reform Discussion Paper released in November 2016, you describe funds (Chapter 8, pp 53-54) being made available to identify and develop innovative projects for employing people with disability. What funding is available for these employer engagement projects and have any projects commenced? If so, can you please describe?	Written
SQ17-000735	Carr	Eligibility for NDIS assistance for those aged over 65	You say that the Productivity Commission advised that only persons aged under 65 should be able to request to become a participant in the NDIS. Can you refer the Committee to the report's recommendation to that effect?	Written
SQ17-000740	Carr	Roll-out of NDIS in Victoria	You have informed the Senate that the transition to the NDIS in Victoria is based on "a staged geographic roll-out." This is based on "existing Victorian disability areas." Can you explain what the term "existing Victorian disability areas" means? Are these "areas" defined and established by Victoria or by the Commonwealth?	Written
SQ17-000741	Carr	Roll-out of NDIS in Victoria	Regarding the bilateral agreement, what is the legal status of the bilateral agreements reached with the states and territories on the NDIS roll-out, including the timetable for each jurisdiction? Who participated on behalf of the Commonwealth in the negotiations leading to the agreement with Victoria? Who participated on behalf of the Victorian Government? On what basis was it agreed that the Victorian roll-out would be a "staged geographic" one? To what extent were financial considerations – funding; the scheme's financial sustainability and so on – taken into account? What were the concerns of the Commonwealth in this regard? What were the concerns of the Victorian Government? In particular, what financial considerations led to the agreement that the NDIS roll-out for the disability area "Hume Moreland" would not commence until 1 March, 2018?	Written
SQ17-000742	Carr	Roll-out of NDIS in Victoria	Regarding Renegotiation of bilateral agreements. Is the Commonwealth open to the idea of revisions to the bilateral agreements? Can they be renegotiated? On what grounds would the Commonwealth be amenable to an approach by a state or territory, seeking to renegotiate its agreement with the Commonwealth? What matters would be open to renegotiation? What matters would not be open to renegotiation? If the Commonwealth is not prepared to re-open these bilateral agreements, why not?	Written
SQ17-000743	McAllister	DSS Staffing	Please provide as at 30 June 2017: ASL by state	Written
SQ17-000744	McAllister	DSS Staffing	Please provide as at 30 June 2017: Headcount of people employed as a. Labour Hire, b. Contractors, or c. outsourced staff, d. and the value of each of these contracts for the 2016-2017 financial year.	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000745	McAllister	Department IT System	The total number of people who have a log in to the departmental IT system, and the breakdown by category of these log-ins (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other category that has access to the system). The total number of people who have a security/access pass into your departmental buildings, and the breakdown by category of these pass holders (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other relevant category). A list of organisations/companies that have staff who can log into your departmental IT system.	Written
SQ17-000746	McAllister	Department Service Delivery	Does any part of your agency/department have a service delivery function, or which has face-to-face interactions with the public? If yes, do you provide staff with training on how to deal with client aggression or customers experiencing mental illness? Please provide the dates and locations that training has been run over the last 5 years. How many of your staff have received this training? How many in the last 2 years? Who provides this training?	Written
SQ17-000747	McAllister	Digital Transformation Agency	As at 31 October 2017, what projects are you undertaking in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Agency? For each project: a) What criteria are you using for assessing success? b) What is the role of the DTA in the project? c) What is the timeframe for completion?	Written
SQ17-000749	Pratt	Energy Supplement	What is the save to the budget over 10 years from axing the energy supplement split up by type of income and support payment?	77 - 25 October
SQ17-000750	Singh	UK Pensions	What kind of open discussions has the government had on the pension indexation issue to ensure a better deal for expat pensioners in Australia?	79 - 25 October
SQ17-000751	Siewert	Forced Adoption	I will just ask, though, in general terms of the commitments that were made and funding that was made available: are you taking any oversight of any of that? You were the lead agency on that. Have you been taking any oversight of the package that was made available?	100 - 25 October
SQ17-000752	Dastyari	Cloud Based IT Storage	Does DSS use externally hosted and managed commercial computing (cloud computing) services to store or process data? (If yes) 1. What is the specific nature and/or purpose of the cloud based data storage or processing services being utilised? 2. Why are cloud based data storage or processing services being utilised? 3. What was the process for tendering, evaluating, and selecting the cloud based data storage or processing services? 4. How have cloud based data storage or processing services been customised to meet specific needs?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
			<p>5. How are the cloud based data storage or processing services being metered and billed? (Data usage? Flat contract? Build/maintain?)</p> <p>6. How much money (estimated) has been saved by utilising cloud based data storage or processing services? (annually, or over past five years if information is available)</p> <p>7. What security measures are the cloud based data storage or processing services subject to?</p> <p>8. What is the recovery or business continuity plan in the event of fault or failure of the cloud based data storage or processing services?</p> <p>9. What internal or external review, evaluation, or audit are the cloud based data storage or processing services subject to?</p> <p>10. Which company or companies are providing the cloud based data storage or processing services? (If not)</p> <p>1. Why aren't cloud based data storage or processing services being utilised, and what are the specific concerns, if any? (security, business continuity)</p> <p>2. Are you considering, or in the process of negotiating to use, commercial cloud computing services to store or process data?</p> <p>3. How have conventional data storage or processing services been customised to meet any specific needs?</p> <p>4. How are conventional data storage or processing services metered and billed? (Data usage? Flat contract? Build/maintain?)</p> <p>5. How much money (estimated) is spent on conventional data storage or processing services? (annually, or over past five years if information is available)</p> <p>6. What security measures are conventional data storage or processing services subject to?</p> <p>7. What is the recovery or business continuity plan in the event of fault or failure of the conventional data storage or processing services?</p>	
SQ17-000753	McKim	Humanitarian Settlement Program Tender	Will the Government provide formal debriefing sessions for unsuccessful NGOs who bid into the Humanitarian Settlement Program Tender?	Written
SQ17-000754	Siewert	Section 110 of the Social Security (Administration) Act 1999	<p>a) Why under section 110 of the Social Security (Administration) Act 1999 is the date of the effect of a favourable determination the later of either the day the individual informed Centrelink about the change in circumstance or the occurrence of the event or the day the event occurred?</p> <p>b) If an individual is entitled to a higher rate of income support as a result of an event or change in circumstances, then shouldn't the occurrence of the event suffice for the individual to be paid the higher rate of pension?</p>	Written
SQ17-000755	Pratt	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children	In regard to the Oversight and regulatory mechanisms aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse report, where is the Government up to in responding to the recommendation for the National Forum?	84 - 25 October

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000756	Kakoschke-Moore	Cashless Debit Card	<p>a) Since the announcement of the extension of the Cashless Debit Card to Kununurra and Wyndham in March 2017, has Minister Tudge returned to either of these sites?</p> <p>i) If yes, on what dates and for what length of time?</p> <p>b) When I visited in July of this year a number of locals voiced their frustration at feeling left behind by the Minister. What follow up has the Minister himself undertaken to ensure that the Cashless Debit Card is implemented adequately and meeting the needs of the towns?</p> <p>c) How many visits had the Minister made in the six months before the announcement was made?</p>	Written

National Disability Insurance Agency

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000186	Brown	BCG consultation in Western Australia	The consultation that BCG undertook for you, did they go all around Australia? In all states and territories?	14 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000187	Watt	BCG documents from consultations	Could we get a copy of those documents that BCG provided to you, coming out of the roundtables.	14 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000188	Brown	Cost of BCG work	How much did the BCG work cost? Do they have some sort of budget to work in? Can we get a breakdown as well, if that is possible, as opposed to their service fee and any additional room hiring costs?	14 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000189	Kakoschke-Moore	Funding for voluntary out-of-home under the NDIS	You may need to take these questions on notice because they're statistical in nature, but I want to know how many participants in the NDIS under 18 years old have requested funding for voluntary out-of-home care as part of their NDIS plans. How many of those requests were granted? What was the level of funding that was allocated for those situations? How many participants under 18 had requested funding for a form of independent supported living, how many were granted and how much was granted in those situations? How many participants under 18 have long-term respite—for example, more than six months? How many of those requests were granted and how much funding was allocated in those circumstances? Ms Gunn: We'll take those on notice.	22 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000190	Brown	McKinsey & Company selection process for Independent Pricing Review	Does McKinsey & Company, who were selected by the NDIA, to perform an independent pricing review, have any prior experience in national pricing?	24 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000191	Brown	Ernst & Young participants review	Can you provide a copy of Ernst & Young's Year 1 Participants review.	24 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000192	Watt	Full scheme participant intake	Senator WATT: Are there people who have been engaged as contractors who do exactly the same job as people that you have working as permanent employees? I acknowledge that any organisation is going to need to contract in specialist skills from time to time, sometimes for a short-term period, but I suspect, if you're talking about 1,000 people, there are people who have been engaged as contractors who are working metaphorically alongside people who are permanent employees, and they're basically doing the same work. Is that the case? Ms Rundle: I also thought that it might be worth adding that, at the moment, while we're growing quickly to full scheme, we get to bring in 460,000 people. When we get to full scheme, the business of the agency after that changes significantly. That's because, after that, we'll be doing planned reviews for our participants, and we'll also be bringing in—I'll need to check with our scheme actuary—at last count, around 20,000 new participants a year after that.	28 - October

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000193	Watt	For-profit-entities delivering LAC services	<p>Senator WATT: Sorry, Ms Gunn. I understand that one of the organisations that's been engaged to operate an LAC in ACT, South Australia and North Queensland is a group called Feros Care.</p> <p>Unidentified speaker: That's correct. Senator WATT: I don't know them, but I'm told they're a for-profit aged-care provider. Do you know if that's correct? Ms Gunn: My understanding is that they're a not for profit. They certainly are experienced in the aged-care sector. I'm absolutely happy to double-check that for you. Senator WATT: Yes, if you could. Why don't we get you to take on notice whether there are any other for-profit entities that have been hired for these LACs as well.</p>	29 - October
NDIA SQ17- 000194	Watt	Planners engaged as contractors	Are there any NDIS planners engaged as contractors?	31 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000195	Watt	Labour-hire staff engaged by the NDIA	<p>Senator WATT: Can we deal with labour hire? How many labour-hire staff are engaged by the NDIA?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: When you say 'labour hire', you're talking contractors? Senator WATT: It's that definitional thing, isn't it? I suppose what I'm really thinking about is not so much people that the NDIA engages directly, as a contractor, but where you have a third party, an agency, who you engage to find new staff. [...] Ms Campbell: I think there might be confusion about recruiting companies assisting recruiting people, and then labour hire—third party—so I think it might be better if we were to take that question on notice so we could give you a more accurate answer about what's going on because I'm hearing a couple of different concepts that are getting used here. [...] Senator WATT: Thanks.</p> <p>People who are engaged by labour hire—in the way DHS and I used to talk about it—let's say for argument's sake it's 100 people, whatever it is, would they be a subset of the 1,012 contractors or is that a different category again? Ms Campbell: I would think that would be the case, but I think it's best that we take it on notice, we look at the numbers and I'll work with the NDIA to clarify those issues for you. Senator WATT: Yes, okay. I would also be interested to know something about the conditions of employment of those people and how those conditions compare to APS employees working directly for the NDIA. Do those people get the same terms and conditions and pay rates as direct employees? Ms Rundle: Can we please take that on notice? Senator WATT: Yes, but I'm going to take a punt that the answer is no. Are they provided with the same training as APS staff? Ms Rundle: I believe so but, again, I'll check that for you. If, for example, they are planners, they definitely would—if we have any planners that are contractors.</p>	32 - 25 October

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000196	Siewert	Nadia expenditure and budget	How much have you spent so far and how much you are budgeting to spend to get Nadia ready for when the system comes online through the pilots process? Have you got, then, an envelope for how much you anticipate the whole process will cost? I've heard what you said; you don't need to repeat it. You must, for budgeting purposes, have a bottom line for how much you would expect to be spending on the system.	35 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000197	Siewert	Nadia vendors	Please advise when the various vendors were in, what they did, how much they cost and why are you going with a new mob. Are you able to answer that now?	35/36 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000198	Siewert	Nadia timeline	Could you provide a timeline from the start of Nadia IT system to when it was supposed to be implemented, when the board made the decision to postpone its use, the launch and final implementation.	36 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000199	Watt	Nadia switch to Microsoft	Is it proposed there will be a switch towards Microsoft? Or have I misinterpreted that?	36/37 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000200	Brown	Review draft NDIS Plan inn the portal	When will participant's be able to view the draft NDIS plans in the system?	44 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000201	Reynolds	Young People in Residential Aged Care - Performance against bilateral targets	Senator REYNOLDS: Did you achieve the number of young people in aged care entering the scheme in the last financial year that the government committed to in the bilateral agreement? Can you tell us how close we came to that figure? Ms McDevitt: I have a figure here that says, as of 30 September this year, there were 868 younger participants in residential aged care with an active NDIS plan. [...] Senator REYNOLDS: If I could ask you, on notice, if you could unpack those numbers a bit further and provide more information on those? Senator SIEWERT: Perhaps the unpacking could include the number of those that have been facilitated to move out and those that are still in. [...] Senator REYNOLDS: Further to Senator Siewert's question, can you unpack that a bit further? In terms of the same reporting date, how many we had exiting or ageing out and how many we had coming in by state and territory?	47 - 25 October

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000202	Reynolds	Young People in Aged Care - Housing Assistance	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Could you also provide us with numbers of people who fall into that category where they have high support needs but there is nowhere for them to go to, and can you also give us a further breakdown of the types of disabilities and care needs that we can't find outside of residential aged care, because that's obviously going to be important. If we're ever going to get rid of these numbers—stop people coming in and help people to be able to leave—we need to know now what housing options and high support needs are not currently being met. So could you take that on notice. Ms Gunn: Yes. We haven't done that analysis, to be honest, but we can certainly start doing that. Senator REYNOLDS: [...] Are you able to tell us how many of the young people in aged care have set a goal to leave aged care and how many have this Exploring Housing support currently in their plan? Ms Gunn: I mentioned last time that we can't pull that out as a line item in an individual's plan. We are working on restructuring the way in which the plans are constructed so that's much more readily available, but we have asked the actuary to pull out the line items that would typically go into a supporting package to enable us to give you that number. Ms Rundle: If I might add to that, we do know—I think we've said it to you before—that the sort of housing options that we used to call a housing options package—I think we might have named it something different now—do provide things like occupational health assessments and other assessments and support coordination to be able to help a participant look for other alternative accommodation, and we work very closely to try and find if it's an interim arrangement, while we then look at an SDA property form. Senator REYNOLDS: [...] Could you take that on notice and perhaps see if you can find a way to speed that up that because, if you don't know how many people have got them and how many need them, again it's quite an important indicator, I think.</p>	48 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000203	Reynolds	Young People in Residential Aged Care - Eligibility for SDA support	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: [...] Coming to SDA payments, how many young people in aged care now have an SDA payment in their NDIS plan, and how many have been found not to be eligible for SDA? Ms Gunn: Sorry, we don't have that. I will need to get that for you. Senator REYNOLDS: Okay, could you take that on notice, because again that is a critically important number to have available.</p>	48 - 25 October

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000204	Kakoschke- Moore	Mental Health Facilities	<p>Last estimates the Agency said: “The NDIS does not fund supports that may be required during periods of custodial orders served in secure mental health facilities; these remain the responsibility of the health and mental health systems which are primarily treatment focussed.” [NDIA SQ17-000122]</p> <p>1. Why are reasonable adjustments or other such supports associated with other functional issues not considered necessary for someone in a secure mental health facility?</p> <p>2. Would the NDIA consider it important for services included in a participant plan to maintain contact with someone in a secure facility so that they re-engage with services after incarceration?</p> <p>3. Has the Agency considered the recommendations made by the NDIS Joint Standing Committee in relation to the provision of services for people with psychosocial disabilities? I specifically draw your attention to Recommendation 22: “The committee recommends the NDIA urgently clarifies what approved supports are available to NDIS participants in custody and how it monitors and ensures NDIS participants access the supports they are entitled to while in custody.” a. What steps were undertaken after this recommendation was made? b. What changes will be made? c. If none, why not?</p>	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000205	Watt	Labour Hire Staff	<p>At the previous estimates, there was a question on notice (NDIA SQ17-000136) regarding the use of Labour Hire or Consultancy firms in the NDIA. At that time, the NDIA could not guarantee that increased funding for staffing would not be spent on labour hire staff or consultants. How many labour hire staff are at the NDIA?</p>	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000206	Watt	Labour Hire Providers	<p>Please provide for the financial year 2016-17 and for each labour hire provider: a) the name of the labour hire provider; b) the amount paid to that provider; and c) the number of staff employed through that provider. Please also provide this information for the period 1 July 2017 – 30 September 2017</p>	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000207	Watt	eMarket Development - Australia Post	<p>How much did the Agency spend developing an eMarket with Australia Post? Why has this not progressed?</p>	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000208	Watt	eMarket Development	<p>Does the Agency still intend to develop an eMarket? What is the timeframe, strategy and budget for this? How many money has been allocated to date, how much has been spent?</p>	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000209	Siewert	PHaMs	<p>What are the data limitations that mean the NDIA cannot identify participants as previously being PHaMs clients? Isn't this sort of data required to determine and develop arrangements around 'continuity of service'?</p>	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000210	Reynolds	Young People in Residential Aged Care - NDIA Measures	Senator REYNOLDS: [...] Could you also update us on the measures, including what has been achieved in getting young people out of residential aged care? Clearly the numbers are tracking well behind what we'd hoped and you had estimated. Could you advise what some of the factors are and the difficulties in achieving this? Again, if you haven't got that to hand I would be happy if you could unpack that for us a in a bit more detail on notice.	47 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000211	Reynolds	Young People in Aged Care - Complaints and SDA decision delays	Senator REYNOLDS: [...] In my office, I've had a number of complaints about the length of time it's taking for the NDIA to decide eligibility for the SDA itself, and my observation is that long delays in deciding whether someone is eligible for SDA lead to significant extra anxiety and stress on the part of the younger person in aged care. Do you have a process or a guideline for how long that should take? Do you want to take that on notice as well? Ms Gunn: I think we will take that on notice, thank you.	48 - 25 October
NDIA SQ17- 000213	Siewert	Market failure in rural and regional areas	What approaches are you considering to address market failure in rural and regional areas? What approaches are you considering to address the inadequacy of the pricing framework to cover the high cost of travel and staffing in these areas? Would you consider block funding as a possible approach? How are you approaching coordination of supports for participants with complex and difficult behaviours?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000214	Siewert	Reduction in supports at annual plan review	Is the NDIS aware of concerns in some jurisdictions – in particular the ACT – where there is a strong trend to dramatically reduce the scope and value of their NDIS supports at annual plan review? Reports from the major community managed mental health service providers in the ACT show a systemic issue of dramatic reductions in NDIS funding packages after annual review – organisations include Woden Community Service, Mental Health Foundation, Catholic Care, St Vincent de Paul and Richmond Fellowship. St Vincent de Paul reports that out of seven reviews completed in the last two months, five participants have had their packages reduced by \$128,000 in total. Some participants they were seeing daily, now only receive minimal support. Has the NDIA investigated why there have been such dramatic reductions in the ACT?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000215	Siewert	Annual plan reviews	It would seem impossible that people have improved to the extent that they require virtually no support now – even taking into account the episodic nature of psychosocial disability. I understand there are also packages vastly below other similar cohorts in other jurisdictions in parts of Victoria. Is the NDIA monitoring the amount people are getting in packages in annual plan reviews and the reasons for packages being reduced? What evidence does the NDIA require for annual plan reviews, what evidence do they take into account and what information is recorded to monitor this?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000216	Siewert	Participants required to re-submit proof of diagnosis	Is the NDIA aware of any instances where participants and service providers are being told that people already found eligible for the NDIS and having annual plan reviews, that they will be required to resubmit proof of their diagnosis? If this is happening, would this be an incorrect approach given this is against guidelines and other formal processes?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000217	Siewert	NDIS Pricing - Conflict of Interest	Does the NDIA disagree that there is a conflict of interest in setting the price and managing the scheme as identified by the Productivity Commission and others in the sector – this was an issue that has been raised by many people through the processes of the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000218	Siewert	Assessment of psychosis	Can I confirm that whereas treatment for actual drug and alcohol issues would be undertaken in a health setting, if a person has psychosis that the disabling impact of this is what is assessed by the NDIS and not how the psychosis was caused? If it is the disabling impact of psychosis that is meant to be assessed, in what circumstance would it be appropriate for the NDIS to determine that a permanent psychiatric impairment with reduced capacity is attributable to drug and alcohol use and not psychiatric impairment? Shouldn't the assessment be based on the impact of the impairment not how the impairment was caused?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000219	Siewert	Psychosis - Determining permanent impairment	I understand that there are cases from Victoria where people who have been recognised as having psychosis for a significant number of years and recognised as receiving services in the Victorian system, are having NDIS applications rejected on the basis that their psychosis was as a result of drug and alcohol use. Also, that the diagnoses and treatment by health professionals – such as GPs and psychiatrists – are being questioned. For example, reasons for rejecting an application are stating that permanent impairment can only be determined once all treatment option have been offered, tried and exhausted and that the remaining impairments are attributable to disability (such as schizophrenia) and not a treatable medical condition, disorder or substance misuse. Can you confirm this is occurring? If so, what information or expertise does the NDIS use to make such determinations, and what is the expertise of the people making these decisions that would be more informed than a treating GP or psychiatrist? In relation to this wouldn't the NDIS accept the reports of medical professionals who may have been treating a person for many years, and also that some treatments aren't appropriate for some people?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000220	Siewert	Impact of drug and alcohol use on eligibility decisions	Given drug and alcohol co-morbidity is very common in people with psychosocial disability, are you concerned that the Act may be misinterpreted and people with permanent impairment from psychosis will have incorrect assessments? Would you agree that psychosis is a psychiatric condition regardless of how it is caused? Would the NDIS apply the same determination or logic to other conditions? For example if someone has a cognitive impairment due to alcohol or drug use; or paralysis due to a car accident where alcohol or drug use was involved, would a history of drug or alcohol use rule them ineligible for the NDIS or would you assess the disabling impact not how the disability was caused?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000221	Siewert	Treatment history to determine substantially reduced functional capacity	Is a diagnosis and treatment history sufficient to determine whether or not an individual likely has a permanent mental health condition resulting in substantially reduced functional capacity? If yes, how much treatment history is required? If no, what else is required? Do you expect 'substantially reduced functional capacity' to be documented?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000222	Siewert	SDA Payments	How many participants now have an SDA payment in their NDIS plan? How many people have SDA for the first time (for example, the number who were not previously living in a group home prior to the NDIS)? How many participants have been found ineligible for SDA? What were the primary reasons they were not eligible? How much has the NDIA paid providers for SDA? Of this, how much is for "new" housing compared with "existing" housing? How many participants are waiting on a decision regarding SDA? On average how long has it taken for NDIS participants who have identified a suitable SDA option and requested SDA to get SDA in their plan? How many participants who are Aboriginal have an SDA payment? How many participants who have a psychosocial disability have an SDA payment?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000223	Siewert	Access to SDA payments	We are hearing that people with disabilities are stuck in Residential Aged Care or in-hospital and other inappropriate accommodation because they are having difficulties in getting SDA payments in their plans. Can you tell us about any work being undertaken by the agency to streamline access to SDA payments for these people?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000224	Siewert	SDA housing in remote areas	What is being done to ensure SDA housing is built in remote areas?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000225	Siewert	Participants choosing to live independently	The NDIS Act has a core principle of choice and control and yet we are hearing that participants who want to live independently in their own home are not being given the option of living on their own and instead are being forced to share with other NDIS participants. We are being told that a preference to live alone is not enough and that instead people must prove that they have serious behaviours of concern and therefore "unable to share". Can you please tell us if this is the current practice of the agency and how this fits with the principle of choice and control & the right to an ordinary life in the community?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000226	Siewert	Senate Order for Entity Contracts - BCG consultancy services	According to the Senate Order for entity contracts listing, in addition to the \$12 million that National Disability Insurance Agency paid Boston Consulting Group for consultancy services related to "strategic advice and planning", it also paid BCG \$1.3 million for what is described as "Consultancy services relating to Specialist Disability Accommodation and Assistive Technology sectors". Can you please explain the deliverables and outcomes related to this \$1.3 million expenditure? Can the NDIA provide a copy of the report or reports produced by BCG in relation to the \$1.3 million expenditure related to SDA and assistive technology?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000227	Siewert	Senate Order for Entity Contracts - Special Adviser to the Chief Operating Officer	The contract list also showed that \$2.4 million was assigned to a "Special Adviser to the Chief Operating Officer". \$827,000 was paid in the 2016-17 year. Was this payment for one single staff member? If so, how does the NDIA consider value for money in this context?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000228	Siewert	Support coordination	Does the NDIA acknowledge that some people will require support coordination throughout the life of their package, and that this may fluctuate over time? Does the NDIS still plan to implement a blanket policy for all participants where support coordination will reduce over time to there being no support coordination?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000229	Siewert	Monitoring the progress and success of LACs	Is the NDIA monitoring the progress and success of the LACs and how do they do this? What are the deliverables – in general – that they are required to meet and how are they monitored – i.e. not just quarterly or over time – to ensure the required support is being provided? What happens if the deliverables aren't met and have there been any instances where deliverables haven't been met? • Have there been any complaints about the LACs performance?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000230	Siewert	LAC tender process	Can the NDIA explain how the successful LACs were selected through the tender process – and by this I mean were they assessed for the expertise and understanding of disability, for example to be able to roll-out and provide support to people with disability in a short timeframe?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17- 000231	Siewert	LACs - Access to information	What is the process for ensuring that LACs have access to the correct and necessary information to be able to provide the appropriate support to people?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000232	Siewert	LAC requirements	In relation to QON NDIA SQ17-000133 on Local Area Coordinators, the response noted that LACs are required to undertake community engagement and awareness activities and assist with new access inquiry requests 6 months before phasing participants; and undertake planning conversations, record participant statements and gather information for plans 3 months before phasing. How many LACs have met this requirement? The response also states that the LAC 'must be able to demonstrate that their staff have the experience and skills to engage with the diverse community of people with disability'. How are they required to demonstrate this, and is staff retention also a part of demonstrating they are fulfilling requirements?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000233	Siewert	LACs who are also RACs	In relation to QON NDIA SQ17-000134 on Local Area Coordinators who are also aged care providers, it was noted that there is currently one LAC who has experience in Regional Assessment services. Was or is this provider also an RAC under the aged care reforms? Are there other LACs who are also RACs? If so, how many? If so, can the locations or areas those LACs cover please be provided?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000234	Siewert	Reference packages	For what current areas of disability recognised under the NDIS have the NDIA developed reference packages? What areas do not yet have reference packages established? Can the NDIA provide a timeframe for when each disability area and when the reference packages will be finalised?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000235	Siewert	Expertise of NDIA assessors and planners	Both the Productivity Commission and the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS recommended that there should be specialist teams with specific expertise established to ensure people are being assessed by people with appropriate expertise to make informed assessments. Does the NDIA agree with this recommendation? If not, why not? In the absence of expert teams, is the NDIA confident that their assessors and planners have the expertise and skill to assess different and complex disability areas?	Written
NDIA SQ17- 000236	Siewert	PHaMs	Is the 800 PHaMs clients the total number of people expected to transition to the NDIS or will there be further PHaMs clients, as the program funding gradually moves into the NDIS? The figure of 281 people or 35 per cent is quite low and DSS and NDIA have previously seemed to indicate this number would be higher – is this lower than expected? Is there any information being kept on why people are not being found eligible or what sort of clients this would include? Is there numbers being kept on PHaMs clients who don't test their eligibility?	Written