

Department of Social Services response to information request on the funding provided specifically for mental health projects, including ongoing development and transition funding, for service providers in the ACT

On 20 January 2017, the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme requested information on the funding provided specifically for mental health projects, including ongoing development and transition funding, for service providers in the ACT.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provided the following response on 23 February 2017:

COMMONWEALTH PROGRAMS TRANSITIONING TO THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

There are four, Commonwealth funded, mental health programs that are transitioning to the NDIS. These programs are:

- Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) and Mental Health Respite: Carer Support (MHR:CS), funded by the Department of Social Services (the Department); and
- Partners in Recovery (PIR) and Day to Day Living (D2DL), funded by the Department of Health (DoH).

A description of each of these programs is provided below:

PERSONAL HELPERS AND MENTORS (PHaMs) - PHaMs provides practical, one-to-one assistance to people aged 16 years and over, who are severely impacted by mental illness, to help them achieve their personal goals, develop better relationships with family and friends and manage their everyday tasks

MENTAL HEALTH RESPITE: CARER SUPPORT (MHRCS) - MHRCS provides support to highly vulnerable carers of people with severe mental illness, whose health and wellbeing, or other impediments, are seriously affecting their ability to provide care. Supports assist carers to continue providing care, and/or improve their health and wellbeing, through social and economic participation in the community. Carers without any access to support, either direct or indirect, are prioritised for support through MHR:CS.

PARTNERS IN RECOVERY (PIR) - PIR supports people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs, their carers and families, by getting multiple sectors, services and supports to work in a more collaborative, coordinated and integrated way. Individuals generally have persistent symptoms (although symptoms may be episodic) and may have become disconnected from social or family support networks leading to extensive reliance on multiple health and community services.

DAY TO DAY LIVING (D2DL) - D2DL provides funding to improve the quality of life for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness by offering structured and socially based activities. D2DL workers deliver activities that may include the following centre based activities that support

program clients to better achieve their goals, develop better relationships with friends and family, build confidence.

Total funding to the providers who deliver these programs in the ACT:

PROGRAM	2015-16 (GST EXCLUSIVE)
PHAMS	\$1,721,671.05
MHR:CS	\$990,471.82
PIR	\$2,849,291.00
D2DL	\$346,516.21

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT FUND

DSS funds a number of mental health projects, both nationally and in the ACT, through the Sector Development Fund (SDF). The Sector Development Fund is a pool of money to assist individuals and organisations to transition to the new NDIS operational environment. This includes activities such as improving the capability and capacity of the sector to deliver services within the NDIS, assistance for participants to exercise choice and control, as well as activities to ensure the sector has enough workers with the right skills.

As at January 2017, the projects and funding are:

MENTAL HEALTH AND CARERS SDF FUNDING – NATIONAL

Current projects

Capacity Building activities for carers to increase their understanding of and transition to the NDIS environment	\$1,480,000
Supporting enhanced collaborative practice approaches through service system (Victorian project which includes a component focussing on the clinical mental health service system and the NDIS)	\$1,850,000

Completed projects

Mental Health Council Australia to engage and prepare consumers and mental health service providers	\$400,000
Mental Health International for Developing Services (MHINDS) In Oz consultancy to examine the readiness of the mental health sector to support the NDIS	\$23,369
Mental Health sector capacity building for providers and consumers	\$1,500,000

ACT PROJECTS

Current projects

Sector development activities in the ACT	\$12,000,000
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Completed projects

Funding provided to the ACT government to support Information, Linkages and Capacity Building supports within the ACT	\$3,700,000
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PROVIDER SUPPORT TO ASSIST WITH THEIR TRANSITION TO THE NDIS

DSS, DoH and NDIA are working with mental health providers to assist with their transition to the NDIS.

DSS:

- Held transition workshops, targeting PHaMs and MHR:CS providers in NSW and the ACT, in early 2016. The focus of the workshops was to provide information about the transition of the programs to the NDIS and further, to provide CEOs and their team leaders with information and support to assist their clients to access the NDIS when it becomes available. The workshops also included presentations from the Department, Mental Health Australia, Carers Australia and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). A number of providers too, for example Richmond Wellbeing, gave presentations about their transition experience so far;
- Provides flexibility in grant agreements for providers to better manage their funding across service areas and across financial years; and
- Provided additional funding of \$15,000 to each provider for each program in each state, through the SDF, to assist with re-engineering their businesses in preparation for the commencement of the NDIS in their regions.

DoH:

- Has been working closely with ACT service providers to maintain service continuity and support client transition to the NDIS. Future funding arrangements will reflect the required level of support to achieve this outcome.
- DoH also funds a transition project that provides support to PIR and D2DL organisations nationally, including through an annual national forum, state workshops, webinars and training modules, one-on-one support and site visits and a website to promote information sharing and discussion.

NDIA:

- Works closely with state and territory governments to assist the participants and service providers of designated programs to transition to the NDIA as requested (noting that not all state and territory mental health programs are transitioning to the NDIS). This has included:
 - attending meetings and information giving sessions.
 - providing workshops for staff in a range of government agencies.
 - reviewing key state or territory government documents such as practice guides and mainstream interface factsheets.
 - providing resources as required.
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