

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Public Hearing – 20 August 2020 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Question 14

Question reference number: SQ20-000569

Senator: Jordon Steele-John

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Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 01 September 2020

Question:

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Finally, I think this is a question for the minister, but I'm happy to be corrected. Currently Australia has one peak body dedicated to getting young people out of nursing homes and residential aged-care settings, the Young People In Nursing Homes National Alliance. Currently this body is advising the government on meeting its YPIRAC targets as well as providing critical advocacy support to young people in nursing homes which are affected by COVID. This is work that is currently being undertaken without any funding from the federal government and at a time in which, I think we would all agree, there are incredible challenges in the aged-care sector. So I would like to know, since this organisation is out of money and currently providing critical systemic advocacy to the government and the community, the time line for when the department will provide funding to this organisation to ensure that it can continue its critical work.

Senator Ruston: My understanding is that currently there is a funding application for this particular organisation to get funding, but I'll have to hand over Dep. Sec. Rule to see if she has any further information in relation to that.

Ms Rule: Thank you, Minister. I'm not aware of the status of that particular funding application, primarily because I am working full-time at this stage on COVID matters in Victoria. We are talking regularly with that organisation. We have been focusing pretty clearly on the cohort of younger people in residential aged care, so we've done proactive outreach to those people and a whole range of activities, again in consultation with the organisation you refer to as one of our key stakeholders. But I am happy to take on notice the status of their funding application.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: They applied four months ago, and they've heard nothing. They are completely out of money and they're the only organisation that do this work. Without them, there is nowhere for your department to go for the systemic, on-the-ground advocacy look into these issues. Quite frankly, I think it's really unacceptable that it has taken this long to get back to—

CHAIR: Senator Steele-John, you're out of time.

Senator Ruston: Could I just follow up on that to say to Senator Steele-John that I will take that matter up for you immediately and will get you a response straight back.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you.

Answer:

The Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance (YPINHNA) is one of a number of organisations that provide support to younger people in residential aged care, and who advise the Australian Government through the YPIRAC Stakeholder Reference Group.

YPINHNA has been successful with two applications under the Individual Capacity Building grant opportunity announced on 1 September 2020, which is part of the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building program. YPINHNA will receive \$616,070 (GST exclusive) over 2020-21 and 2021-22 to deliver the Taking Control of our Support project, which aims to build support groups of people with disability living in settings where they are sharing supports, to develop decision-making, communication skills, assertiveness, and negotiation skills. In addition, YPINHNA in collaboration with Youngcare, will receive \$645,156 (GST exclusive) over 2020-21 and 2021-22 to deliver the My Future My Choice project which aims to support choice and decision making by younger people in residential aged care.