



Senator Rachel Siewert
Committee Chair
Community Affairs References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

AHI11/94

Dear Senator Siewert

I refer to your correspondence regarding the 2010 Inquiry into planning options and services for people ageing with a disability.

You have requested information about a number of pilots that were referred to during the inquiry hearings. Further details for each of these is enclosed.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Ethel McAlpine
Deputy Director-General

Ethel McAlpine
4 April 2011

Encl.

A) Independent Living Support Initiative

This program arose from the development of accommodation support models that is ongoing in New South Wales (NSW) as part of the *Stronger Together* program of reform. In particular, this pilot targets people with a disability who are currently living with ageing parents/carers who are seeking to increase their living skills to enable them to live independently or with minimal support.

The Independent Living Support Initiative (ILSI) aims to:

- > Identify, assess and plan the transition of appropriate people with a disability into suitable independent living arrangements;
- > Provide the living skills training and preparation necessary to maximise their success in living independently in the community;
- > Assist with access to accommodation and sustained tenancy;
- > Provide support and assistance with essential activities of daily living using a risk managed and strengths based approach to assist them to reach their maximum potential and independence; and
- > Prevent the escalation of need for more intensive or restrictive accommodation support or homelessness.

The ILSI commenced in 2010 and has had a significant establishment period, with participants commencing in the program in 2011. The program will be evaluated after two years, when it is anticipated the first intake of people should be reaching an accommodation outcome.

The current planned allocation of places across Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) regional boundaries is as follows for the three year implementation phase for the program:

ADHC Region	Year 1 2010/11 intake	Year 2 2011/12 intake	Year 3 2012/13 intake	Total
Hunter	5	3	5	13
Metro North	0	5	10	15
Metro South	5	5	5	15
Northern	0	3	4	7
Southern	0	2	3	5
Western	0	2	3	5
Total	10	20	30	60*

* Note that distribution of these places may be subject to alteration pending final allocation of additional resources secured through *Stronger Together: Phase 2*, however the final number of places in the program will not alter.

B) Support for people who have provided their own accommodation

As far as ADHC can determine, the pilot referred to at this point in the transcript is the Independent Living Skills Initiative referred to at point A.

C) 'Pool' Pilot

In 2003/04, approximately 145 flexible aged care places were allocated to projects in the Central West, Northern Sydney, Western Sydney and the Far North Coast areas.

Funds were allocated to approved aged care providers who worked with government and non-government disability providers in local communities to deliver individual, 'top-up' aged care to clients who were assessed as eligible under the *Australian Government Aged Care Act (1997)*.

The pilots were non-recurrently funded for three years by the Australian Government under its *Flexible Care Initiative* and provided additional aged-care supports required by people with a long-term disability who were ageing aimed at:

- > enabling clients to age in their current disability-funded setting wherever possible, and minimising early entry into residential aged care;
- > providing additional aged care supports through the Innovative Pool, while ensuring that existing state-funded disability services continued; and
- > testing the effectiveness and efficiency of providing separately sourced but pooled aged care and disability funds, to allow people with a disability to age in their existing supported accommodation.

In June 2004, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare commenced a national evaluation of all pilots across Australia, including the four NSW pilots. The evaluation found that the additional support provided by the pilots successfully delayed or prevented people with a disability who are ageing from prematurely entering into residential aged care.

The Australian Government however, determined that some of the aged care supports provided through the pilots could reasonably be delivered by existing disability services and in early 2005, notified the four disability providers involved in the NSW pilots that they could continue to support existing individuals indefinitely, but cannot accept any new entrants to the pilots.



ADHC also evaluated the pilots to assess the impact on state funded services, to determine staff training requirements and identify any barriers to people with a disability accessing mainstream aged care services.

The NSW evaluation confirmed that the pilots successfully enabled most people to 'age in place' in their group home. It also highlighted that the disability and aged care systems are not well coordinated or integrated, and emphasised the need for mutual exchange of skills and information between the two sectors.

An election commitment of the Rudd Government was to make Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) available nationally to people living in disability group homes where they demonstrate ageing related needs. Some 200 packages were to be provided over three years through the Aged Care Innovative Pool at a cost of \$12,920 per annum per client. The Australian Government's most recent position communicated to NSW is that negotiations occurring under the National Health and Hospitals National Agreement will meet and exceed this commitment.

D) Independent Living Skills Program

The pilot referred to at this point in the transcript is the Independent Living Skills Initiative referred to at point A. Ms Hewitt's organisation is funded to provide the ILSI services in the ADHC Metro South Region and has been involved since the development stage.