

# PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry into Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2 February 2022

PDR Number: IQ22-000018

**Deaths of NDIS participants linked to COVID-19**

**Spoken**

**Hansard page number:** 34-35

**Senator:** Jordon Steele-John

**Question:**

Senator STEELE-JOHN: To date how many NDIS participants have died either from COVID-19 or while having COVID-19?

Dr Murphy: Professor Kelly will get that. Again, the data will include both with and from COVID because, as I said, we report all COVID positive deaths as if they were COVID deaths.

Prof. Kelly: Looking at data from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, 51 NDIS participants have passed away, through the whole pandemic up to 31 January 2022.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Do you have a similar figure for those who were disability support pension recipients?

Prof. Kelly: I don't have data on that. I'll have to take it on notice.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Alright. Do you think you will have data on that? I know that's the two datasets of disabled people that the Commonwealth collects?

Dr Murphy: That data would have to be sourced from DSS, I would think.

Ms Shakespeare: I think we'd need to look into matching the death data we have with the data held on DSP recipients by the Department of Social Services. We can look into whether that can be made available.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: That hasn't already been done?

Ms Shakespeare: To my knowledge, no.

Prof. Kelly: Not to my knowledge, but we can take that on notice and see if we can get that from the department.

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is unable to provide the requested number of deaths among disability support pension recipients – as distinct from National Disability Insurance Scheme participants – to 31 January 2022. The Department does not collect data on COVID deaths by income support payment category.