

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 59

Topic: NDIS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

People with cognitive impairments are overrepresented in the criminal justice system generally and in prison facilities generally. Indigenous Australians with a cognitive impairment form a significant part of this group. In the context of the NDIS: Will there be capacity for the NDIS to provide specific diversionary services that prevents people with a cognitive impairment who may have been arrested from being detained in prison?

Answer:

The NDIS will fund 'reasonable and necessary' supports for eligible participants, as defined in legislation, any legislative instruments and other operational guidelines. The NDIS will fund supports that meet the person's needs arising from their disability with a focus on connecting them in their community. Integrating people into the community fosters an environment in which detention after arrest but before trial may be less likely. The criminal justice system will remain responsible for diversionary services that are targeted at the broad Australian population, including making these services accessible and appropriate for people with disability.