

**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:** 370

**Topic:** CALD and the NDIS

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Di Natale** asked:

Following and further to Supplementary Estimates 2012-13 Answer to QoN 485 and 486 received 27 November 2012, could the Department please outline any new measures or developments it is pursuing in 2013 to engage culturally and linguistically diverse Australians in the planning and development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

**Answer:**

People from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) will continue to be engaged through the planning and development process of the NDIS using a number of engagement mechanisms:

- The NDIS Launch Transition Agency is conducting a schedule of engagement activity, both at the national level, with representative organisations and with participants and providers in launch locations.
- Engagement will include the involvement, where possible, of people from CALD backgrounds in the field testing of the planning and assessment tools to identify any changes needed in the way they are used with these groups.
- The current phase of Agency-led engagement activity, which extends from April to July 2013, will include an increased focus on CALD groups and individuals. During this period, engagement activity will be more frequent to ensure that people in launch locations are prepared. Engagement will include the involvement of people from CALD backgrounds in testing to ensure that the planning and assessment tools and Agency operational processes are appropriate for these groups.
- The NDIS Advisory Group commenced an online 'Your Say' forum in April 2013 with a specific focus on CALD issues and the NDIS. The views of interested stakeholders, including individuals with disability, families, carers and their representative bodies expressed through this forum, will continue to be carefully considered and comments used to inform the operation of the NDIS.

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- A Roundtable co-hosted by the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) and the National Disability and Carer Alliance (the Alliance) was held on 12 March 2013. The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Minister for Disability Reform, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP attended the Roundtable. The Alliance will continue to engage with peak organisations, their members and people with disability, their families and carers at the grassroots level right around the country on key design issues. The current focus of the Alliance's work over the coming months includes a targeted consultation process with people from CALD communities.
- NEDA has been supported to conduct consultations with members on the NDIS Rules and to continue to engage with their membership leading up to the NDIS Launch in July 2013.
- NEDA was consulted in March 2013 on the draft NDIS rules and provided feedback that was considered in the finalisation of the rules.