

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 456

Topic: NDIA and Block Funding

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- 1) What feedback has the NDIA sought on block funding issues?
- 2) What are the emerging issues/trends/needs arising from this feedback to date?
- 3) When will the NDIA be announcing policies around block funding?

Answer:

In the 2011 Productivity Commission Report it was envisaged that while block funding to services providers supplying individual supports would generally phase out, block funding may continue in certain circumstances, such as in building community capacity, pilots of innovative service, in some rural areas where markets might not support the provision of any service, and where there is a need to build longer term capacity, such as Indigenous-specific services. The Report also envisaged that funding would be available to organisations that provide services which compliment individual funding arrangements and have a broader social benefit.

- 1) The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has received some early feedback from providers that there are significant challenges moving from a block funding model to an individualised funding model.
- 2) The NDIA will address transitional challenges for providers as the trial progresses.
- 3) Policies relating to Scheme design, including block funding policies, would need to be developed in partnership with the Department of Social Services. The NDIA will turn attention to this work as the experience of the trial of the NDIS provides richer information.