

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 487

Topic: NDIS – Disability Housing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

What work is the Department doing on the stock of disability housing?

- a. For example, does the Department know what the current housing needs are? If not, what work is the Department doing to assess the current housing needs of people with disability in Australia?
- b. What work has commenced on potential Commonwealth investment in disability housing?
- c. Has the National Institute of Labour Studies Consortium been specifically asked to evaluate the impact of the Scheme on carers – in particular, whether the supports to the person they care for has reduced the burden of care and to what extent, and whether carers have been able to increase their participation in employment and/or training?

Answer:

a.-b.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is expected to cover 460,000 people aged 0-64 once it is fully rolled out. The Productivity Commission (PC) report into the NDIS considered the current housing arrangements for people with disability who were likely to be covered by the NDIS. This included the 6,500 people in residential aged care and 15,700 people were in either group homes, large or small residences.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is undertaking further analysis of the potential need for housing in the NDIS. The NDIS will not meet all the housing needs of people with disability. Mainstream systems, such as state and territory public housing authorities, will continue to play an important role in supporting people with disability. The NDIS can link participants with other mainstream services through advice and referral with existing housing support systems.

The NDIA is currently considering its approach to housing. The NDIA will work closely with the Australian Government, states and territory governments and the broader community in the development of the approach to housing in the NDIS.

- c. The evaluation of the NDIS trial, being undertaken by a consortium led by the National Institute of Labour Studies, will evaluate the impact of the NDIS on people with disability, their families and carers. In particular, the evaluation will consider the extent to which the NDIS has contributed to changes in wellbeing and quality of life for both people with disability, and for their families and carers; and to what extent the NDIS has contributed to changes in social and economic participation (including employment and education) for people with disability, their families and carers.