

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 5.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme    Question No: SQ15-000020**

**Topic: Sector Development Fund**

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**Senator McLucas, Jan** asked:

Can we get a copy of those guidelines when they are and so that we can compare, can we get a copy of the old guidelines too?

**Answer:**

In December 2014, the Australian Government decided to transfer management of the Sector Development Fund (SDF) from the National Disability Insurance Agency to the Department of Social Services. Officials are progressing the transfer arrangements.

The Government is transferring responsibility for the Sector Development Fund to ensure the National Disability Insurance Agency can focus on its core responsibilities in delivering the NDIS. The Department of Social Services has considerable expertise in grants management, and will work to ensure the Fund is used to assist the market, sector and workforce to transition to the Scheme.

The NDIA developed Sector Development Fund guidelines that had been noted by the Disability Reform Council and included four outcomes. A copy of the NDIA guidelines to access the SDF is provided at **Attachment A**.

The Department is drafting a new Sector Development Fund Strategy that incorporates information from the NDIA guidelines but is aligned to the revised programme outcomes detailed in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2014-2015 for Programme 5.2. This strategy is still under development.

The draft Sector Development Fund Strategy will then be provided to Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, the Assistant Minister for Social Services for his consideration. A copy will be provided once it is finalised.

This funding will be used for the purposes for which it was designed. The Sector Development Fund Strategy will guide the types of projects that will be considered for funding. Funding will be provided in accordance with the approved programme guidelines which are available on the Department's website. A copy is at **Attachment B**.