

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 5.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ16-000138**

**Topic: Disability Reform Council**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Claire Moore** asked:

1. I understand at the last DRC meeting the Commonwealth proposed the 2015-16 Market, Sector and Workforce Action Plan. Was this endorsed by Ministers?
2. If not, why not? Does this mean that there is no agreed Action Plan for 2015-16?
3. The Agency's Workforce strategy proposed the establishment of Industry Advisory Groups to help guide workforce and sector development. Have any groups been set up? If yes, what are they? If not, why not?
4. Will the Commonwealth put a new national quality and safeguards framework to the next DRC meeting? When can we expect a final framework to be finalised and agreed? Will a framework be in place in time for the transition to full scheme?

**Answer:**

1. No, the Integrated Market, Sector and Workforce Action Plan for 2015-16 (the Action Plan) was not endorsed by Ministers at the Disability Reform Council (DRC) meeting of 13 November 2015. At the 4 March 2016 DRC meeting, Ministers noted the range of actions taken by all jurisdictions to support the development of the market, sector and workforce.
2. The intention of the Action Plan was to ensure a coordinated effort by all jurisdictions to support the Integrated Market, Sector and Workforce Strategy (the Strategy), which was agreed by Ministers at the DRC meeting of 24 April 2015. All jurisdictions have agreed to work together, and with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), to implement the Strategy.
3. As set out in the Strategy, the Industry Advisory Groups (IAGs) are intended to take an action-oriented, national perspective on how the different components of the Strategy come together to achieve an efficient and effective market structure. The Commonwealth is currently consulting with states and territories and the NDIA on the scope and membership of the IAGs. The intention is to establish four IAGs by the end of the 2015-16 financial year. The areas of focus for the IAGs include: specialist disability accommodation; rural and remote service delivery; supporting participants with complex needs; and assisting suppliers to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
4. A National Quality and Safeguards Framework was discussed by DRC at their meeting of 4 March 2016 and a final framework is expected to be available for consideration by Ministers by May 2016. Officials have been developing a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), which will inform the framework, including implementation timeframes. State and territory governments will maintain their existing quality and safeguarding arrangements in trial and transition and the National Quality and Safeguards Framework will be implemented for full scheme.