

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: SQ16-000207

Topic: NDIS

Hansard page: Written

Senator Kim Carr asked:

Do you agree that this situation is arbitrary and inequitable? Why should eligibility depend on practical rollout dates, rather than being assessed as at the formal commencement of the Scheme on 1 July 2016?

Answer:

The *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act) imposes a limitation that only persons aged under 65 can make a request to become a participant. This limitation was based on the advice of the Productivity Commission in 2011.

Progressive implementation of the scheme by age and geography during transition has been agreed with each individual state and territory to ensure the orderly implementation and long term sustainability of the scheme.

The implementation of the NDIS Act as the NDIS rolls out means that only those people who make a request to become a participant when they are under 65 will be eligible. Those people aged 65 years and over who are currently receiving supports will be provided with continuity of support to ensure they achieve the same level of outcomes that they are currently achieving. Those people 65 years and over who are not currently receiving services will receive support through the Aged Care system.