

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000447

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: NDIS Eligibility

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

As the Department of Social Services stated in Estimates that it is the Department of Health's responsibility 'for data and numbers of people who have a mental illness outside the NDIS' has the Department of Health or any other organisation on behalf of the Department have generated any data or undertaken any modelling, assessment or analysis on the number of people with mental illness who will not be eligible for the NDIS or how many people currently using Commonwealth funded mental health programs will not be eligible for the NDIS? If the Department of Health has generated any data, or undertaken any analysis, modelling or assessment in relation to the number of people with mental illness who will not be eligible for the NDIS why hasn't the Department released these figures or conveyed this information during Senate Estimates?

Answer:

The Department of Health has not undertaken any modelling, and does not currently have data, on the number of people using Commonwealth community mental health (CMH) programs who will not be eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is responsible for determining eligibility to the NDIS and for reporting eligibility outcomes for applicants. Data on NDIS transition rates for Commonwealth CMH clients is currently limited due to the bilateral phasing schedules. Further data will become available as transition to the NDIS progresses.

Modelling was undertaken in 2016 for the Department of Social Services using the National Mental Health Service Planning Framework (NMHSPF) to estimate the prevalence of mental health disorders and psychosocial support needs. It was considered that individuals (aged 18-64 years) with severe and complex disorders would most closely align with the NDIS Tier 3 population, noting that there are limitations in using a resource planning tool to approximate population sizes in relation to NDIS eligibility. As noted above, the NDIA is responsible for NDIS access decisions regarding the severity and permanence of an individual's psychosocial disability.