

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000450

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** NDIS Eligibility

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** O'Neill, Deborah

**Question:**

Last December, The Australian ran a story on official modelling. Included in the article was reference to state modelling undertaken for all health ministers by the New South Wales and Queensland Government. These figures, suggest more than 100,000 people will not be eligible.

- a) Is the Department aware of this modelling? Does the Department agree with these figures? In that article there was also a response from a Department of Health Spokesperson stating: "Any of our commonwealth clients who are not eligible for the NDIS will receive continuity of support". Can the Department explain how these clients, the spokeswoman is referring to, will receive continued support?
- b) If State Governments can undertake modelling and understand the number of people who will not be eligible for the NDIS, why can't the Commonwealth or the Department of Health undertake any modelling?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department of Health is not aware of this modelling. The spokesperson referenced in the article was from the Department of Social Services. All governments have committed to providing continuity of support for existing clients who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). In the 2017-18 Budget the Government committed \$80 million over four years for community mental health services to assist people with severe mental illness resulting in psychosocial disability who are not eligible for assistance through the NDIS. The additional Commonwealth investment will be delivered once agreements have been reached with appropriate commitments from each state and territory.
- b) Please refer to the response provided in Question on Notice SQ17-000447.