

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 504

Topic: NDIA – Mainstream services

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Senator Siewert asked:

There is the issue around dealing with individual issues with mainstream services and there are the generic ones. I realise one feeds into the other. Do you have or can you take on notice further information on what the main issues are that you need to deal with? Do you have that to hand or do you need to take it on notice? I am going back to what we were discussing earlier - mainstream.

Answer:

Consistent with the National Disability Strategy, Governments have agreed the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) should not replace other mainstream service systems but rather the NDIS should reinforce the obligations of other service delivery systems to assist in improving the lives of people with disability. This agreement is reflected in the NDIS rules and operational guidelines.

In each trial site, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has developed relationships with local mainstream systems to outline how systems will work together to support people with disability. This includes local referral protocols and mechanisms for resolving specific individual situations.

The NDIS governance arrangements provide a number of forums for the NDIA and governments to identify and resolve issues related to the mainstream interface. The NDIA and governments work through the COAG Disability Reform Council structure when mainstream issues have implications for multiple jurisdictions.

Some specific areas of mainstream interface that the NDIA has encountered and will be seeking policy direction to ensure the NDIA takes a consistent national approach to funding supports for participants include:

- a. Funding for skills and capacity building programs for children prior to school age (for example, early intervention programs which simulate a classroom setting);
- b. The scope of the NDIS' responsibility for personal care at school;
- c. Out of home residential options for children who are under 18 and cannot live at home due to their disability;
- d. Modifications to public and community housing (for example, where a child participant in public housing requires fencing of a property to prevent absconding);
- e. Responsibilities of the NDIS and justice system for people with disability who require secure and semi-secure accommodation settings to safeguard the community.