

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ17-000443

Topic: Quality and Safeguards -Workforce Screening

Hansard page: Written

Senator Murray Watt asked:

What work has been undertaken to develop the worker screening policy?

Answer:

Nationally consistent National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) worker screening is a key component of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, which was developed following extensive public consultation undertaken in conjunction with states and territories. Responsibility for this will be shared between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments, with responsibility for overall design and broad policy settings resting with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, and operational responsibility, including the management and operation of worker screening units, resting with the states and territories.

All governments are currently working together to develop specific elements of the NDIS worker screening policy through an NDIS cross-jurisdictional working group with membership comprised of jurisdictional experts, department officials and the National Disability Insurance Agency. This work is also informed by the recommendations made by the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*.

Joint work is now being undertaken on jurisdiction-specific elements of national worker screening policy to ensure a consistent approach.