

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

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ17-000526

Topic: Support for Siblings

Hansard page: Written

Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore asked:

It is well documented that parents of children and adults with disability experience considerable stress and have higher rates of mental health problems than other parents. There are usually other children in the family who also experience much of the same stress, but without the emotional and cognitive maturity to cope. They also experience higher longer term mental health problems.

What resources are directed to advocacy for siblings of NDIS clients?

If there is none, what future support for advocacy for this group has been considered?

Answer:

The National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) provides people with disability with access to effective disability advocacy that promotes, protects and ensures their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights enabling community participation. The service includes family advocacy that helps parents and family members, including siblings, advocate on behalf of the person with disability for a particular issue.

NDAP agencies can also assist with issues that may arise with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with support providers.

The Disability Advocacy Finder is a web-based application for people with disabilities, carers and their families, to search for advocacy agencies funded by the Australian Government by Postcode, State or Provider Type, and is available through <https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/>

The Australian Government also funds a number of national disability organisations representing cross-disability issues, women with disability, children and young people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability, and people with disability from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds to represent the interests and views of all people with disability, their families and carers to Government.

Carers Australia is also funded by the Australian Government to represent and advocate for Australia's unpaid carers, including siblings of people with disability.

Siblings Australia has received a one-off grant of \$60,000 (ex GST) from the National Disability Insurance Agency to understand the current situation for siblings of people with disability, including current supports, needs and gaps in relation to information, linkages and capacity building.