

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2017-2018 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome:** National Disability Insurance Agency

**Question No:** NDIA SQ17-000088

**Topic:** Reduction in funding

**Hansard Page:** Spoken

**Senator Siewert,** asked:

**Senator SIEWERT:** I have been asking about cuts, not increases. You may have already taken this question on notice, but, of the 22,000 reviewed, how many have received a cut?

**Ms Gunn:** I can certainly take that on notice.

**Mr Tidswell:** Certainly we will take that on notice.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Have you got that information with you?

**Ms Gunn:** No.

**Mr Tidswell:** The number of plans that have increased is significantly larger than the number of plans that have decreased. We will get that exact information for you over the last quarter.

**Senator SIEWERT:** I am not just interested in the last quarter; I am interested in all of them.

**Mr Tidswell:** Over the period.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Maybe quarter by quarter; how many have been cut or increased or stayed the same.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Is it possible to find out on a broader scale—I realise you cannot tell me on an individual scale—about the sort of reduction in the areas they have been in; whether they have been carers? Have you been keeping stats on that? When a plan has been reduced, is it around carer hours, or around other supports

**Answer:**

22,792 plans were reviewed between 1 July 2016 and 31 March 2017. Using annualised committed supports (to allow consistent comparisons), 15,561 (68.3 per cent) of these plans increased, 6,105 (26.8 per cent) decreased, and 1,126 (4.9 per cent) remained the same.

The changes by quarter are summarised in the following table:

	<b>1/7/2016 to 30/9/2016</b>	<b>1/10/2016 to 31/12/2016</b>	<b>1/1/2017 to 31/3/2017</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Increased</b>	2,329	5,575	7,657	15,561
<b>Decreased</b>	1,422	1,824	2,859	6,105
<b>Unchanged</b>	20	301	805	1,126
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>11,321</b>	<b>22,792</b>

In line with maximising participant choice and control, since 1 July 2016 participants have had flexibility to choose how to allocate their funding within each of three classes of supports (core, capacity building and capital). Carer supports are included in the 'core' class of supports, but their values are not explicitly stated in plans.

There is no evidence to suggest that carer support has been reduced proportionately more than any other support type. Of the 6,105 plans that had a reduction in funding between 1 July 2016 and 31 March 2017, the average reductions were:

- 30 per cent for capital supports;
- 28 per cent for capacity building supports; and
- 27 per cent for core supports.