

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 SQ17-000104

Topic: Update on Summer Foundation

Hansard Page: Spoken

Senator Reynolds, asked:

Senator REYNOLDS: Even if it is not an NDIA issue straight up, it is the ACAP teams', in terms of their procedures and what they actually do. Obviously, they are still getting 500 every quarter coming in and getting an ACAP assessment to go into aged care and to triage it. If we cannot stop them doing that or make it harder for them to do it, can we not get them to divert these people, if they are in aged care, straight away to the NDIA?

Ms Hand: If it is in a transition site, I would think so. Mr Bowen?

Mr Bowen: We reported on this at the last estimates, and we will put it on notice and get an update on the project we have with the Summer Foundation, which is around that. I also mentioned last time, and it is starting to crystallise, a proposed project around discharge planning that we are doing with the young people in residential aged-care alliance. The issue is not so much the ACAP assessment, the issue is that nearly all of the young people entering aged care are coming out of discharge from hospitals and rehab settings. I, in fact, met with the Association of Rehabilitation Physicians late last year to talk about having a more active involvement of the NDIS, particularly as we roll the trial sites out. In the discharge planning, there is no point bringing us in a minute before midnight when the person is about to be discharged. Often there are months of lead-in to that discharge date, and getting the agency involved earlier in that process, would allow us to start exploring housing options at that much earlier point in time

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Agency has funded the Summer Foundation through an National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Information Linkages and Capacity Building grant for 12 months, commencing in June 2017, to develop a number of practical resources for Residential Aged Care and Aged Care Assessment Team providers. These resources are aimed at raising awareness within the aged care system about the young person's needs and how to best address them. During the 12 months, the Summer Foundation will establish local service linkages in an aim to reduce the number of young people entering aged care, and those young people in aged care, enable them to leave and live more integrated lives in their community.

In regards to a younger person's initial access point to aged care, this is undertaken through the My Aged Care contact centre. The contact centre is trained to redirect a younger person to their relevant state or territory disability service or the NDIS in the first instance. However, if the younger person can provide evidence that they have exhausted this avenue, the contact centre will refer the younger person onto an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) for further assessment.

For a person who is not an aged person, the ACAT is required under aged care legislation to determine that there are no other care facilities or care services more appropriate to meet the person's needs as part of their approval process. If the younger person can provide evidence that they have exhausted all other service and meet the other requirements set out under aged care legislation, the ACAT is able to approve the younger person for aged care services.