

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 SQ17-000113

Topic: YPIRAC

Hansard Page: Spoken

Senator Reynolds asked:

Senator REYNOLDS: Since mid last year, the department and NDIA have been advising the committee that aged care fees will be paid by the NDIA, but there were still some administrative arrangements to work out. Some of them you have already covered earlier on. But I have seen examples, and I have had advocates provide examples, where some young people are paying more than \$20,000 in means-tested fees while this process goes on. Given that many young people in aged care are still looking at two, three, four years or more to get on the NDIS and then get out to accommodation, it has very serious financial consequences, including divorcing partners and doing all sorts of things to afford or avoid it.

Mr Bowen: We have been working with DSS and the Department of Health to, in effect, set agreed pricing for supports provided through the residential aged-care facility. Then, when the person is in the scheme, there will be additional supports on top of that. I think that is close to finalisation.

Ms Gunn: It is close. It is very complicated. Since the last Senate estimates, there have been a number of detailed conversations very much focused on landing that between the Department of Health, DSS and ourselves. That would enable us to be very clear. It is almost there.

Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you. Again, we are not talking about tens of thousands of people. But, if you are a 30-year-old in an aged-care facility, the guidelines and requirements are set up for somebody who is in their 80s or 90s and at a very different stage of their life financially, and generally as well. If you could come back with that information, that would be good. That is something else we will track as we go on as well.

Ms Gunn: We will provide a very detailed explanation of how it is broken up and who retains responsibility for what in that.

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will pay the Means Tested Care Fee and the Accommodation Charge on behalf of the participant residing in an aged care facility as these fees relate to daily care and support needs.

The NDIS participant will continue to pay the basic daily fee as this relates to day-to-day living costs that are not related to a participant's disability support needs.

Administrative processes to implement these arrangements are being finalised by the National Disability Insurance Agency and the Department of Health.