

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 SQ17-000116

Topic: NDIS Condition List

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, asked:

How does a condition come to be listed on the condition list?

How often is that list reviewed?

If the review is periodic, why is it not reviewed when an issue arises?

Answer:

There are five lists of conditions/programs that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) uses for the purposes of facilitating access for participants:

- List A – Permanent impairment/functional capacity – no further assessment required.
- List B – Permanent impairment/functional capacity variable – further assessment of functional capacity required.
- List C – Defined programs
- List D – Permanent Impairment/Early intervention, under 7 years – no further assessment required
- List E – Qualifying Programs

The lists identifying permanent impairments were originally created by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) based on advice from a health professional. The inclusion of an additional condition to any of these lists is a policy decision made by the Chief Executive Officer from time to time, as the need arises. Changes to the policy are then reflected in updated NDIA Operational Guidelines.

Conditions on List A and List D are considered to result in a disability that is attributable to a permanent impairment that results in substantially reduced functional capacity. As such, the person meets all elements of the disability requirements in section 24 of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act) without requiring additional evidence.

Conditions on List B are generally considered to result in a disability that is attributable to a permanent impairment. However, the severity of the resulting disability is variable and people with these conditions will not necessarily have substantially reduced functional capacity.

Further evidence is required to be satisfied that the person, as a result of that impairment:

- has substantially reduced functional capacity or psychosocial functioning;
- their capacity for social or economic participation is affected; and
- is likely to require support under the NDIS for the person's lifetime.

Programs in List C have disability requirements equivalent to the NDIS. Where a prospective participant is an existing client of a defined Commonwealth, state or territory disability program on List C, the NDIA will be satisfied that the person meets the disability requirements without further assessment.

Any person residing in New South Wales who is found to meet the age and disability or early intervention requirements, however does not meet the residency requirements (i.e. the citizenship / visa requirements in section 23(1) of the NDIS Act), may then be assessed under List E.

These lists are not exhaustive and in no way suggest that a person with a condition different to those listed would not have a permanent impairment that results in substantially reduced functional capacity.

For people with a condition that is not on the aforementioned lists, they will be asked to provide further evidence of their substantially reduced functional capacity and how that is attributable to a permanent impairment to meet all the elements of the disability requirements in section 24 or Section 25 of the NDIS Act.