

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 SQ17-000132

Topic: Local Area Coordinators

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert, asked:

Please outline the specific functions the Local Area Coordinators will be undertaking i.e. plan reviews?

Answer:

The Partners in the Community (PITC) program enables the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to be implemented at a local community level. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is looking to partner with experienced and qualified organisations, with strong local knowledge and understanding of the needs of people with disability or developmental delay, to deliver Local Area Coordination (LAC) and Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) services as part of the PITC program.

The LAC role is to support and assist people with disability aged seven years and over to exercise choice through LAC services. LAC services are designed to build and pursue their goals for an ordinary life, exercise choice and control and engage with the NDIS; and be supported outside the NDIS by working with communities and mainstream services to build awareness and to become more inclusive of the range of needs and aspirations of people with disability.

LAC services include:

- LAC in Advance
 - Six months before phasing participants into the NDIS undertake community engagement and awareness activities and assist with enquiries about new access requests and assist those currently receiving State or Commonwealth based disability supports to transition to the NDIA.
 - Three months before phasing undertake planning conversations, record the Participants statement and gather information required to enable a Participant's first plan funded supports to be developed by an NDIA delegate.
- Plan Implementation and Monitoring – includes handover of the plan (once approved by NDIA delegate) and assisting the participant to understand and use their funded supports, use the participant portal and self-manage their funds where applicable. The Partner also supports the participant to increase their mainstream and community supports and activities in line with goals to live an ordinary life.
- Plan Review – Two to three months before the end of a plan (and for any unscheduled reviews) undertake a plan review conversation, gather information and complete all detail required to develop a proposed plan for NDIA delegate approval. The proposal must include 'reasonable and necessary' funded supports.

Some LAC partners are also providing ILC and Community Capacity Building Services to ensure all people with disability aged seven years and over, not just participants can connect to mainstream services and their local community, and provide linkage and referral to community and mainstream services.