

**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 SQ17-000148

**Topic:** Autism

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Brown,** asked:

What measures and/or programmatic response does the NDIA have for providing independent, autism specific information and support to this significant proportion of participants, families and carers?

**Answer:**

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has a number of areas where information and support is available to participants with autism.

As we recognise the ongoing value of information, linkage and referral capabilities, we have funded a range of projects that will benefit people with autism under the recent Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grants for the Australian Capital Territory and National rounds. In addition, the NDIA has continued to fund existing state based activities that align to ILC type support during transition. As the ILC rolls out, it is expected that this will further strengthen and consolidate information across all cohorts.

AMAZE was funded through the Disability Support Organisations contract to build and support a number of peer based groups to enhance understanding of the NDIS and to build capacity to interact under the new arrangements.

16 Early Childhood Partners have been contracted for their expertise and experience in working with children with developmental delays and disabilities to deliver on the Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach. They will have access to specialised advice and guidance regarding specific disabilities and support requirements. Supports will be tailored to the child and family's individual needs and circumstances. Reasonable and necessary supports are provided based on needs and goals recognising that these are likely to change over the course of a child's development.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (CRC) is developing Best Practice Diagnostic Guidelines to enhance consistency and accuracy in the diagnosis of Autism in Australia. The development has included extensive national consultation held from November 2016 to May 2017.

The guidelines will be invaluable to achieving consistency in relation to assessment, diagnosis and planning of interventions for children with autism. This will allow the NDIA to develop a robust evidence base of practice for reasonable and necessary supports, as well as implementing an early intervention approach, ensuring better outcomes for children with autism.