

**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 SQ17-000149

**Topic:** Autism

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Brown,** asked:

With Autism comprising 28% of participant plans, what measures have the NDIA taken to ensure the NDIA, its staff and its partners, have the experience and capacity to meet the needs of this complex cohort?

**Answer:**

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) endeavours to have the most appropriately skilled and experienced staff working with participants, regardless of the participant's condition. The NDIA has established a specialist team which assists planners with the application of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*, guidelines and reasonable and necessary decision making. The specialist team is available to provide technical guidance and support to all staff on a range of disabilities and contexts including autism. A planner can make contact with the team at any time for assistance with complex decisions during the planning process.