

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 485

Topic: NDIS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Di Natale asked:

"The Department advised following Budget Estimates this year that the 'National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Advisory Group which has met, and will continue to meet, with CALD representatives in various locations around Australia' (answer to Budget Estimates QoN 340). a) Could the Department provide a list of the dates and locations in which the NDIS Advisory Group consulted with CALD representatives to date? b) Could the Department explain how it ensures that CALD representatives are aware of scheduled NDIS Advisory Group consultations?"

Answer:

- a) The NDIS Advisory Group was established to provide specialist advice on the development of the NDIS foundation reforms and design of the proposed arrangements for launch of an NDIS. As part of this role, the Group engages with stakeholders and the community including peak disability bodies, non-government organisations and service providers. This includes meetings with state and territory disability advisory groups and councils, some of whom include culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) representatives.

In addition, a meeting with the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) is currently being arranged.

The Advisory Group has established the NDIS 'Your Say' online forum to provide opportunities for people with disability, their families and carers to share their experiences and views. As at 12 November 2012, three forums have been held and a total of 321 responses received. Of these responses, six have raised CALD specific issues relating to the design of the NDIS.

The Advisory Group has provided information to people from CALD communities through the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia's (FECCA) national publication *Australian Mosaic* magazine. An article prepared by the Advisory Group will appear in the December 2012 edition.

- b) The forward schedule for Advisory Group meetings is not publicly available, as meeting dates are subject to change.