

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 335

Topic: National Disability Insurance Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

On what basis was a decision taken to change the name from DisabilityCare to the National Disability Insurance Scheme? If so, please provide details of that research.

Answer:

The Government reverted to the name National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in line with its election commitment.

As foreshadowed prior to the election, the Government has returned the name of the scheme to NDIS for two reasons. The first is to leave behind a name that was disliked and did not reflect the intent of the scheme. It is important to the Government that the name is embraced by the people the scheme is designed to support. DisabilityCare Australia was a name that was seen as patronising by many people with a disability. Australians with a disability do not want to be objects of care. They want the support they need to be independent and in control of their lives. The name DisabilityCare Australia was at odds with this vision of choice and independence.

The second reason was to reinforce and underline the insurance principles of the scheme by having this reflected in the name. The scheme is about value for money, support on a needs basis, a strong actuarial focus and minimising costs over time through early intervention.