

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ16-000392

Topic: Disability & Carers Policy

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

How are people with moderate and severe intellectual disability represented on boards and representative bodies involved in DSS and NDIS programs?

Answer:

The Australian Government has established a new disability peaks funding model representing the interests and views of all people with disability, which is providing advice to the Government on breaking down barriers and improving social and economic participation.

Five national disability organisations are funded to represent cross-disability issues, women with disability, children and young people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability, and people with disability from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

The Australian Government has also recently announced the formation of a National Disability and Carers Advisory Council. Members include experts from industry and service sectors, non-government organisations, people with disability, and carers. The Council will provide advice to the Minister and help drive key government reform agendas affecting people with disability and carers.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Independent Advisory Council acts as a conduit between participants, the community, and the decision-making bodies of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and plays an important role in shaping the work of the NDIA. This group has people with disability and lived experience as members.

The remit of the NDIA Independent Advisory Council is to provide advice to the NDIA Board on the way the NDIA performs its functions in relation to the NDIS, and as such it has a focus on how supports for participants in the Scheme are being provided and how those supports assist people with disability, their family and carers.

In August 2015, the NDIA Independent Advisory Council set up an Intellectual Disability Reference Group to advise the Council on the effectiveness of the Scheme design and how the NDIA can engage and connect better with people with intellectual disability to enable them to live a good life.

These bodies provide mechanisms that will support all people with disability, including those with moderate or severe intellectual disability, and their carers, whether or not as participants of the NDIS.