

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

**Outcome Number: 3.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ16-000415**

**Topic: NDIS**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Carol Brown** asked:

There are numerous reports that many people are getting their mobility allowance cut as soon as they are deemed eligible for the NDIS but before their plans are in place. For example, DARE Disability in NSW has reported approximately 25 cases of people with profound disability in this situation. This has resulted in many people that are now not in receipt for any money for their ongoing transport costs during that period. What will be done to address this?

**Answer:**

Section 1038 of the *Social Security Act 1991* indicates that Mobility Allowance is not payable to a person if:

- a. the person is a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participant; and
- b. the NDIS plan is in effect for the NDIS participant; and
- c. the NDIS plan contains a statement specifying the reasonable and necessary supports that will be funded under the NDIS.

These conditions are deemed to have been met once a person signs the plan of support and the plan is registered in the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) system.

In order to address any potential gap, the NDIA has advised that participants can be back-paid to the period when their Mobility Allowance was cancelled (i.e. plan approval).