

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016 – 2017 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome:** National Disability Insurance Agency

**Question No:** NDIA SQ16-000040

**Topic:** Hearing services

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert,** asked:

Has the Office of Hearing Services /National Disability Insurance Agency considered the possibility of supporting a modified form of market contestability in hearing services?

**Answer:**

In transition, the National Disability Insurance Scheme will have a modified form of market contestability in place through the *in kind* arrangements with the Office of Hearing Services (OHS).

The OHS has contracted a sole provider, Australian Hearing, of specialist hearing services for children and young Australians to age 26.

Participants aged 26 to 65 years can access hearing services through the voucher scheme of the Hearing Services Program, where they can choose from any of the OHS contracted service providers.

In effect this means that participants will access hearing services through the existing Hearing Services Program.

Market contestability and design issues for full scheme are under consideration in collaboration with the Department of Social Services.