

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 SQ16-000042

Topic: Hearing Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert, asked:

Does the Office of Hearing Services /National Disability Insurance Agency agree that the service delivery needs of people with impaired hearing are different to people who require for example, support in personal care or transport?

a) How do they see these needs differ?

b) If you agree that the needs are different and the processes are different, why is it then that you do not have trial sites specifically for hearing services, especially in rural areas?

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is currently transitioning to full scheme. During the trial period, NDIS trial sites included different age and geographical cohorts, and hearing services were included in each of the trials.

a) Participants have individual needs thus all plans include reasonable and necessary funded supports based on functional impact and individual context such as availability of formal and informal supports. Participants who have impaired hearing would have a budget for translation services included in their NDIS plan.

b) The delivery of hearing services requires specialist skills and expertise. NDIS funded hearing services are currently provided 'in kind' by the Office of Hearing Services within a service delivery framework that prescribes skills and experience.