

**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 SQ16-000073

**Topic:** Mental Health

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert,** asked:

The pricing structures for mental health services is a significant issue with regards to the NDIS, in terms of paying and keeping qualified staff and recognising there is a different level of knowledge and skill for mental health. What is the Government proposing to address this, for example will you establish separate pricing structures for mental health; will you delay the full transition of mental health into the NDIS until this is addressed or there is better data/information available?

**Answer:**

The rate at which people with psychosocial disability transition to the National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) is determined by phasing arrangements agreed between governments. Some key points to note are:

- There is no separate price structure for disability supports for people with psychosocial disability within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) price guide – Version release date: 11 July 2016.
- The NDIS provides funding to participants to purchase a range of supports aimed at increasing their independence, inclusion, and social and economic participation. This funding model is designed to be flexible and to allow service innovation. Importantly, the supports delivered will be chosen, and paid for, by individual participants. The range of supports funded by the Scheme will expand over time. In the NDIS payment system, supports for participants fall into three Support Purpose categories: core, capital and capacity building.
- The NDIS Outcomes Framework has been developed to measure goal attainment for individual participants and overall performance of the Scheme. There are 8 Outcome Domains in the framework. These domains include; choice and control, daily living, work, home, health and well-being and social and community participation.
- Furthermore the Agency Price Guide is arranged into 15 Support Categories that align to the purpose of the funded supports and the Agency Outcomes Framework. These include; Assistance with daily life, Assistance with social and community participation, coordination of supports, Increased social and community participation, Finding and keeping a job, Improved relationships and Improved life choices.
- Traditionally psychosocial disability support providers work to support people through their recovery journey.

- These supports align appropriately to the NDIS Support Purposes of Core and Capacity Building and the domains within the NDIS Outcomes Framework which are then aligned to the Support Categories.
- In 2019-20 the total number of expected participants is approximately 460,000, of which around 64,000 participants are estimated to be those with a primary psychosocial disability (13.9 per cent).
- The Agency is working closely with the Commonwealth funded mental health programs which are transitioning into the NDIS to ensure potential participants, their families and carers are provided with assistance and support by these service providers through the NDIA access and planning process.