

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. BE17-074

Senator Siewert asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

Senator SIEWERT: In answers to several of my questions on notice you said that, in terms of hearing, there had been no complaints about access under the NDIS. Could I ask you on notice to update the figures in question AE17/003, about complaints about access to hearing services under the NDIS, and in AE17/002, about the number of complaints you have received about the NDIA. Could you provide us with updated figures on those, please.

Mr McEwen: Yes. In regard to your question about hearing impairment, I can say that from the period July to December 2016, there were 29 complaints from people who have a hearing impairment—

Senator SIEWERT: Yes; I saw that. I am now asking for you to update that for this year.

Mr McEwen: I do not have any further information, other than that.

Senator SIEWERT: Do you also not have anything to add to the figures that you provided in relation to complaints about the NDIA? Will I have to wait till next estimates?

Mr McEwen: Yes; that is correct. I will take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: Can I go back to the issue of testing. Would it be normal for you to look at the measures that were introduced—both the drug testing issue and the impairment tables—regardless of whether you were asked to or not?

Mr McEwen: That is correct. My role is to ensure that under the Disability Discrimination Act there is no form of discrimination against people with disability in Australia. I will take that on notice and look into that.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

The table below updates the figures that were provided previously in response to the honourable senator's question AE17/003.

	July – Dec 2016	Jan – June 2017
Hearing Impairment	29	14
Access to hearing services	11	2
NDIS	0	0

Regarding complaints the Commission has received about the NDIA, the number remains unchanged at nine complaints.