

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: NDIS

Senator: Senator Fifield

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Question:

Senator FIFIELD: Again, direct me to FaHCSIA, if you need to. In the Heads of Agreement between the Commonwealth and New South Wales at point 21 where it says, "The Commonwealth's funding of \$3.319 billion in 2018-19 will pay for client supports and administration of the scheme"; are you able to give me a breakdown of \$3.319 billion as to how much of that would be money that the Commonwealth would already have been putting into disability services? I know it is not called the Commonwealth state disability agreement anymore but through that agreement and through other mechanisms? I am trying to get a handle on how much of that is new money.

Ms Hosking: FaHCSIA might be able to give you some more information, but I think we would have to take that one on notice.

Senator FIFIELD: If you could. The parliament as a whole is endeavouring to get a better understanding of the year-by-year funding of the NDIS. It can be a little tricky because the Productivity Commission had a funding profile and the Australian Government Actuary has a funding profile which fundamentally endorses the work of the Productivity Commission. We have then got the money that was put in the forward estimates from last year's budget. I know that this figure is beyond the forward estimates period, but could you take on notice how much of that money is what would ordinarily be projected for the Commonwealth to be providing to New South Wales in whatever form in 2018-19? How much of the \$3.3-odd billion would be the continuation of the funding profile which came about as a result of the money in last year's budget, and how much is what we might call new money, for want of a better phrase? That would be helpful.

Answer:

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This question was answered by Mr Mark Thomann from the Department of Finance and Deregulation during the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Senate Committee on Tuesday, 12 February 2013 (page 10).