

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: National Disability Insurance Scheme

Senator: Senator Fifield

Question reference number: 211

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 November 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. How many staff within the Department are working on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)? Can the Department provide a breakdown by APS level?
2. How many support staff does the Select Council and the Advisory Group have? Please provide a breakdown by APS level and by Department.
3. What is the role of the Department in the development of a NDIS?
4. What resources (eg. Funding and staff) is DPMC devoting towards the development of a NDIS?

Answer:

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is considering the recommendations of the Productivity Commission Inquiry Report on Disability Care and Support, including those relating to a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), as part of usual business in relation to disability and carer policy.

A taskforce dedicated to progressing the NDIS has been established in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). PM&C has one seconded Executive Level 2 staff member in this taskforce.

As agreed by the Council Of Australian Governments, first ministers' departments are developing high-level principles to guide consideration of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. This working group is chaired by a Deputy Secretary of PM&C and met in September and October 2011. The Deputy Secretary

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of PM&C is also chairing the Senior Officials Working Group's sub-group on funding and governance, which comprises first ministers' departments and treasuries.

Further information on the Select Council and the Advisory Group can be provided by FaHCSIA.