

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ17-000086

Topic: NDIS - Bilateral Agreements

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

The response to question on notice 400 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17 suggests that the bilateral agreements for the NDIS between each state and territory and the Government outline exactly what each state and territory and the Government will be funding. While there is information about funding, exact funding contributions to the NDIS from the states and territories are not readily available. If the information is in the bilaterals, can the government state definitively where – this does not include tables which include expected or estimated contributions and amounts – but the total figure of annual committed contributions to the NDIS from existing state and territory mental health funds?

a. The bilaterals do not address who is responsible for funding where the estimated total number of clients is reached or surpassed. What is the process if this occurs, and is there a default to the legislation which states that the NDIA/NDIS must provide support to people who are eligible for the scheme?

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is an uncapped Scheme. If a person is found eligible, they are granted access and will receive an NDIS plan.

Information regarding total annual committed funding contributions for transition for each state and territory is set out in Schedule B of the Bilateral Agreements, excluding Western Australia where these details are set out in Schedule C.

How governments source their NDIS funding commitments is a matter for each government.

The Bilateral Agreement for each jurisdiction states the Commonwealth is responsible for meeting 100 per cent of the risk of cost overruns. This excludes Western Australia (WA), where WA is responsible for a minimum of 75 per cent of any cost overruns and the Commonwealth is responsible for a maximum of 25 per cent of any cost overruns.