

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

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ17-000088

Topic: Funds for Mental Health Programs Transitioning to the NDIS

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

In 2016-2017 funds for many mental health programs, such as Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs), began transitioning to the NDIS. Currently, in 2016-17 funds for this program have been cut by 7 per cent, which will increase to 30 per cent in 2017-18 and 71 per cent in 2018-19. However, many programs report no PHaMs clients have been moved over to the NDIS yet, despite funds already been cut. Where is the money going?

a. How are service providers expected to continue to provide services with cuts to funding and meet the NDIA's service guarantee?

Answer:

Commonwealth funding for community mental health is not being cut. Funding is gradually transferring to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) based on the number of program participants expected to leave the programs to become NDIS participants.

Department of Social Services grant agreement funding is for services to program clients who have not yet transitioned to the NDIS. Funding can, and has been, returned to providers through variations to grant agreements the Department has issued if and where the rate of participants entering the NDIS changes.

Providers delivering services to NDIS participants claim that cost directly from the National Disability Insurance Agency.