

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: SQ17-000170

Topic: NDIS Act Legislation changes

Hansard page: Written

Senator Murray Watt, asked:

What will the legislative changes to the NDIS Act (2013) entail? When does the Government intend to introduce these changes?

Answer:

In 2015, an independent review of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (the Act) was undertaken, in accordance with section 208 of the Act. The review was tabled in both Houses of Parliament in March 2016. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) response to the review was developed collaboratively with state and territory officials and the National Disability Insurance Agency, was agreed in December 2016, and tabled in the House of Representatives on 1 March 2017 and the Senate on 20 March 2017.

The preparation of amendments to the Act as agreed by COAG is underway.

The amendments to the Act are intended to provide greater clarity to the legislative framework of the Act and include:

- strengthening the Objects and Principles of the Act – for example, in relation to carers and the sexual orientation of people with disability;
- amending the legislative framework to ensure that principles established by Information, Linkages and Capacity Building policy are reflected;
- addressing technical inadequacies of the legislation (for example, extending the ability of the CEO to gather information about prospective, rather than just actual, participants); and
- conducting another review of the Act in a timeframe determined by the Disability Reform Council.

It is intended these amendments be introduced into Parliament this calendar year.