

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: SQ17-000181

Topic: NDIS - Second Implementation Plan

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

1. In the Second Implementation Plan under the National Disability Strategy, four priority areas were highlighted, including 'Communications activities to promote the Strategy'. What, if anything, has been done to progress this priority area?
2. What work has the Ministerial advisory council done to advance 'Transitioning to the full NDIS' a priority area identified in the Second Implementation Plan?
3. What work has the Ministerial advisory council done to advance 'Improving employment outcomes for people with disability' a priority area identified in the Second Implementation Plan?
4. What work has the Ministerial advisory council done to advance 'Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability' a priority area identified in the Second Implementation Plan?
5. Can the Department provide a forward work program available for the Ministerial Advisory Council, including a schedule of meetings?
6. Can the Department provide a forward work program available for the National Disability & Carers Advisory Council and a schedule of meetings?

Answer:

As directed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and Disability Reform Council (DRC), all states and territories have the responsibility for progressing the objectives of the National Disability Strategy (NDS). The Australian Government has established the National Disability and Carers Advisory Council (NDCAC) which, as part of its Terms of Reference, has been tasked with reinvigorating the NDS.

While this work is ongoing, examples of communication include the Department of Social Services providing financial support to the Australian Local Government Association to develop a guide for local governments, the annual National Disability Awards, and a range of activities undertaken on the International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD).

The Australian Government also supports representatives from Disability Peak Organisations and Disability Advocacy Organisations to attend key international forums on human rights. In 2017, this program will support the attendance of people with disabilities and their representative organisations at the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant in Civil and Political Rights.

Through the National Disability Conference Initiative, the Australian Government also provides financial assistance to conference organisers to support the participation of people with disability in nationally-focused disability-related conferences.

NDCAC has formed three Working Groups which met for the first time this year. The groups are focusing on Carer Reform, Employment Reform, and NDS Reinvigoration. Improving the outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will be a priority in all areas of work that these groups undertake. The Working Groups are developing their work plans and will report back at future DRC meetings.

The next NDCAC meeting is scheduled for 3 May 2017.