

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

Outcome: National Disability Insurance Agency

Question No: NDIA SQ17-000028

Topic: Specialist Disability Accommodation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Reynolds asked:

Since the Specialist Disability Accommodation payments began on 1 July 2016:

- a. How many “new properties” have been enrolled with the NDIA?
- b. How many NDIS participants have the SDA payment in their plan? How many of these participants did not live in an existing supported accommodation setting (i.e. are part of the unmet demand for housing)? Can you provide a breakdown of these numbers by NDIS region?
- c. How much funding has been paid to SDA providers? Of this, how much is ‘in-kind’ funding?
- d. How much user cost of capital funding is estimated to be allocated to the NDIA by governments for participant plans this financial year, based on the Productivity Commission’s estimate of the cost of capital in participant plans?
- e. How many providers are registered only for SDA (i.e. they are not registered for any other support other than SDA).

Answers

- a) As at 31 December 2016, a total of 32 Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) dwellings were enrolled with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) as SDA “New Builds.”
- b) As at 31 December 2016, 3,238 participants had SDA included in their NDIS plan. As at 31 December 2016 there were no participants who had received SDA in their plans who were not already living in disability related supported accommodation settings at the time of transition.

Since 1 July 2016, the NDIA’s focus has been on transitioning existing residents of shared supported accommodation into the NDIS. Participants not currently residing in disability related supported accommodation but who may require SDA in the future receive an Exploring Housing Options Package (EHOP). An EHOP is funding for support coordination and assessments to enable exploration of a participant’s housing needs and preferences.

- c) As at 31 December 2016 no payments for SDA had been made.
The committed funding for SDA at 31 December 2016 was for a total of \$26,180,970; estimated to consist of \$20,920,720 cash and \$5,260,250 in-kind. Payment is dependent on three criteria being met namely, registration as a provider of SDA, enrolment of the dwelling as SDA and a participant eligible for SDA resident in the dwelling.
- d) Generally, state and territory governments have funded providers of shared supported accommodation through a single payment stream intended to cover the costs of delivering a combined accommodation and support service to residents.

Some providers also receive ad hoc capital development or maintenance grants, or have been gifted land or buildings.

Under the NDIS, participants receive individualised funding they can then use to approach the market and engage the providers of the supports they require and choose. In order to determine funding for a participant, an individual plan decision is made for each participant by an NDIA delegate applying the reasonable and necessary test in the NDIS Act and the criteria and tests in the SDA Rules.

When determining their contributions to the NDIS, state and territory governments did consider the numbers and costs of particular participant cohorts such as those in shared supported accommodation. However, this was part of state and territory governments determining their overall contribution to the NDIS and does not equate to governments providing funding for a particular support type under the NDIS.

The Productivity Commission (PC) report on Disability Care and Support, published on 20 June 2011, estimated the costs of the NDIS at full Scheme. In the report, the PC estimated that around 28,000 (or six per cent) of NDIS participants would require accommodation supports at full Scheme. The NDIA's testing of the SDA assessment criteria currently reflects that anticipated total demand is consistent with the PC's estimates.

- e) There are currently no providers registered with the NDIA with SDA as their only registration group.