

**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 SQ17-000038

**Topic:** CALD Backgrounds

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

What is the current rate of participation in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) among people of CALD backgrounds?

- a. Does this represent an under (or over) representation of people of CALD backgrounds?
- b. What strategies are in place to increase this?

**Answer:**

a) Historical data on participants from CALD backgrounds is detailed below:

- As at 30 September 2016, 3.3 per cent of participants with approved plans are CALD.
- As at 30 June 2016, 4.0 per cent of participants with approved plans are CALD.
- As at 31 March 2016, 4.2 per cent of participants with approved plans are CALD.

During transition, the different phasing approaches outlined in each jurisdictions' bilateral agreements makes it difficult to set expectations of CALD participant numbers.

b) The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is developing a CALD Strategy to ensure communication and engagement activities meet the needs of people from CALD backgrounds (refer NDIA SQ17-000037).