

**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 SQ17-000046

**Topic:** Carer Respite

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Carer respite is currently support provided directly to the carer; however, these funds are reportedly in scope to transition to the NDIS. Will the NDIA commit to ensuring that carer respite is provided in every NDIS package for those who have a carer or ensure a funding stream for respite services that is at least the equivalent of the current program through the Department of Social Services?

**Answer:**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funds are directed to individual participants. During the planning process the participant and their supporters are asked a series of questions regarding informal support arrangements. These questions are aimed at identifying the sustainability of informal supports. The NDIS recognises the importance of maintaining informal caring arrangements and the flexibility in a participant's budget enables them to use funds towards supports that, either directly or indirectly, support the efforts of carers. Common examples include short term supported accommodation services, or additional services delivered in the participant's home such as assistance with personal care or daily activities. These capacity building supports also aim at developing skills and increasing the independence of participants.

Carer support programs remain the responsibility of Department of Social Services.