

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ16-000354

Topic: National Disability Advocacy Program

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

1. In regard to the review of the National Disability Advocacy Program:

a) Please provide an update on the outcomes of the NDAP review including the submission process.

b) Please provide a detailed summary of the consultations that have been undertaken as part of this review, include who was consulted, and when, how and where they were consulted and any costs the Department incurred associated with the consultation?

c) Has the Minister and/or Assistant Minister been briefed on the outcomes of the review and consultation process?

d) If so, when was this information provided to the Minister/Assistant Minister's office?

e) Will a report on the review be made public?

f) If a briefing had not been provided to the Minister/Assistant Minister, what is the timeline on providing this information to the Minister/Assistant Minister?

g) What are the next steps in the review process?

h) How has the Department been communicating information about the review and the related processes to the sector?

i) Is the review taking into consideration the changing role and demand for advocacy in the context of the NDIS rollout?

2. In relation to the 12 month funding extension for NDAP service providers:

a) When were the previous funding agreements due to end?

b) When were the providers informed of the decision to provide the funding extension?

c) Did all the service providers have their funding extended? If not, how many providers were not extended, where were they funded to provide services, why was an extension not given and will or has an alternate provider been funded?

d) Did this funding extension include indexation?

Answer:

1. a) The review of the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) commenced with a request for written submissions to www.engage.dss.gov.au – the Department of Social Services (the Department) website – a process which ran from April to July 2016. The Department received 156 submissions, from a very broad range of stakeholders including people with disability, parents/carers, disability advocacy providers, peak disability bodies, disability service providers, legal representative bodies, public advocates and ombudsman offices.

b) From March until October 2016 the Department consulted extensively via individual telephone calls and teleconferences, and numerous face-to-face interviews and group meetings with:

- people with disability, their parents/families/carers;
- disability advocacy agencies (NDAP and non-NDAP funded);

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- the National Disability Insurance Agency;
- state and territory governments;
- other branches of the Department; and
- other key stakeholders including numerous disability peak organisations.

The estimated costs attributable specifically to the above activities was:

Expense	2015-16	2016-17
Venue hire and catering	N/A	\$628.40
Staff travel	\$1,325.56	\$6,795.67

c) No.

d) N/A.

e) Yes.

f) The Department will prepare a submission for consideration by the Assistant Minister by the end of November 2016.

g) This is a matter for Government to decide. No decision had been made as at 10 November 2016.

h) Information has been provided to the NDAP sector via their Grant Agreement Managers and at various face-to-face meetings. The peak organisation for advocacy providers, Disability Advocacy Network of Australia, has also been provided with regular information.

i) Yes.

2. a) Funding agreements with NDAP agencies expired on 30 June 2016.

b) NDAP providers were informed of the decision to further extend funding agreements to 30 June 2017 in December 2015.

c) All NDAP providers had their funding agreements extended to 30 June 2017.

d) No.