

**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: SQ16-000359**

**Topic: National Disability Strategy**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Carol Brown** asked:

1. What consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders in the development of the Implementation Plan?
  - a) Were there any open consultations or were they by invite only?
  - b) Did you engage directly with people with disability, their families and carers?
  - c) Please provide a list of all stakeholder consultations including dates, attendees and any costs incurred by the Department.
2. The Australian Government response to the recommendations of Australia's Second Universal Periodic Review states that the finalised Second Implementation Plan for the National Disability Strategy would include the development of an Action Plan to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians with a disability:
  - a) Has this Action Plan been developed simultaneously with the Second Implementation Plan?
  - b) What consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders in the development of the Action Plan?
  - c) Were there any open consultations or were they by invite only? Did the Department engage directly with Indigenous people with disability, their families and carers?
  - d) Please provide a list of all stakeholder consultations including dates, attendees and any costs incurred by the Department.
  - e) Is there a budget allocation for this Action Plan?
3. Are there going to be any other Action Plans for specific groups or populations? For example will there be an Action Plan to improve outcomes for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Australians with disability?
4. Given the significant delay in the development and release of the Second Action Plan, has any consideration been given to revisiting the implementation timeline, including the development and release of the Third Action Implementation?
5. 2014 Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments notes that it includes feedback from people with disability, through their representative organisations, on the first phase of the strategy's implementation. Other than this has there been any formal evaluation or review of the first implementation plan?
  - a) If so, was this conducted by the Department or by an external consultant?
  - b) Is there a report on the evaluation/review? If so, could you please provide copies to the Committee?
6. When is the next Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments due? Will these reports to COAG continue on as two yearly reports under the Second Implementation or will other reporting arrangements be established?
7. Has a communication strategy been developed raise awareness about the National Disability Strategy and Second Implementation Plan?
  - a) Can you provide details of specific communication activities planned?
  - b) Is there any funding associated with this work?

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**Answer:**

1. The Second Implementation Plan draws on the National Disability Strategy's first biennial progress report to Council of Australian Governments (COAG), and the Disability Ministers' National Forum held in February 2015. It also reflects feedback received from extensive Australia-wide consultations with people with disability, their families and carers. There will be ongoing consultation with stakeholders on a range of implementation activities as they are progressed.
  - a) The draft Second Implementation Plan was provided to disability peak organisations for comment late in 2015, followed by a focus group in November 2015, and a revised draft for comment in April 2016. States and Territory Governments were also key partners in the development of the plan and had opportunity to engage with key stakeholders.
  - b) The Department engaged with People with Disability Australia, Women with Disability Australia, National Ethnic Disability Alliance, First Peoples Disability Network Australia, Children and Young People with Disability Australia, and National Disability Services.
  - c) The consultation process and dates are provided above. No specific funding was provided by the Department of Social Services (DSS).
2. Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability has been identified as an area for increased national focus in the National Disability Strategy's Second Implementation Plan.
  - a) Yes.
  - b) A range of stakeholders have been engaged in the development of the Plan, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their representative organisations, researchers and community organisations. These stakeholders were invited to attend a roundtable, held in November 2014, and several focus group meetings held during the first half of 2016.
  - c) Attendance at the roundtable and in the focus group meetings was by invitation. Participants were invited based on their expertise and experience as well as their lived experience of disability as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person with disability.
  - d) The roundtable on 21 November 2014 was facilitated by Mr Damian Griffis, Chief Executive Officer, First Peoples Disability Network Australia. The following stakeholders attended the meeting:
    - Ms Libby Massey, MJD Foundation (Machado-Joseph Disease)
    - Ms Kim McRae, NPY Women's Council
    - Ms Linda Eddy, NPY Women's Council
    - Dr Clare Townsend, SYNAPSE Queensland (on behalf of Jennifer Cullen)
    - Dr John Gilroy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney
    - Mr Nick Rushworth, Brain Injury Australia, Sydney
    - Mr Scott Avery, First Peoples Disability Network
    - Mr Andrew Fernando, First Peoples Disability Network (on behalf of Gayle Rankine)
    - Ms Therese Sands, People with Disability Australia
    - Representatives from Department of Social Services, National Disability Insurance Agency, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of

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Health, Department of Employment, Department of Education, Department of Human Services and Attorney-General's Department.

The estimated costs incurred for the conduct of the roundtable was \$11,675(GST exclusive).

To further develop the Plan, a focus group was established. Meetings were held in January, March and April 2016. The meetings were facilitated by PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting. Following is a list of the attendees:

- Mr Damian Griffis, CEO First Peoples Disability Network Australia
- Mr Scott Avery, First Peoples Disability Network Australia
- Ms Jennifer Cullen, SYNAPSE Queensland
- Mr John Gilroy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney
- Ms Pauline Brown, person with expertise in the issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
- Mr John Baxter, Aboriginal person with lived experience of disability
- Representatives from Department of Social Services, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

The approximate cost of the focus group meetings; including travel, accommodation, venue and facilitation service and report drafting; was \$27,778 (GST exclusive).

e) No.

3. None are planned as at 10 November 2016.
4. The Strategy's third and final implementation plan, *Measuring Progress 2019-2020*, will be developed in 2018. It is not anticipated that the current delay in release of the Second Implementation Plan will lead to further delay in the release of the Third Implementation Plan.
5. No.
6. The Strategy's second progress report, covering the period 2015-2016, will be released in 2017.
7. A communication plan is currently being developed. There is no funding associated with this work.