

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

**Outcome Number: 3.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ16-000396**

**Topic: NDIS Funding**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert** asked:

The provider sector has recently been given a \$5m fund for workforce development – what was the rationale for taking this fund outside of Government?

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services (DSS) will access a range of expertise and advice in determining Innovative Workforce Fund (IWF) projects that are likely to yield genuine innovative outcomes for the disability workforce. The lead organisation delivering the IWF will build the evidence base for workforce innovation, to assist in assessment of applications, and in recommending projects for funding to DSS. DSS retains final approval of all projects that are recommended for funding by the lead organisation.