

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO HEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Social Services Legislation Amendment (Transition Mobility Allowance to the National Disability Insurance Scheme) Bill 2016 Hearing 21 November 2016**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments      Question No: 1**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

How much would it cost to maintain access to Mobility Allowance for those aged 65 years or over?

**Answer:**

It would cost around \$7.4 million to maintain access to Mobility Allowance for new claimants aged 65 and over from 1 January 2017 until 30 June 2020.

Note that this is a stand-alone, indicative administered costing only; it has not been cleared by the Department of Finance and does not include Department of Human Services costs. There will also be ongoing Continuity of Support costs from 1 July 2020.

This change cannot be implemented for 1 January 2017.

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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 2**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

How many recipients does the change to restrict Mobility Allowance for those aged 65 years and over affect?

**Answer:**

As at September 2016, there were around 4,900 Mobility Allowance recipients aged 65 years and over. Current recipients will not be affected by the change.

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**Social Services Legislation Amendment (Transition Mobility Allowance to the National Disability Insurance Scheme) Bill 2016 Hearing 21 November 2016**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments      Question No: 3**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

How much would it cost to maintain access to Mobility Allowance for those undertaking job search activities?

**Answer:**

It would cost around \$7.8 million to maintain access to Mobility Allowance for those undertaking job search activities from 1 January 2017 until 30 June 2020.

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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 4**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

How many recipients does the change to restrict Mobility Allowance for those undertaking job search activities affect?

**Answer:**

As at September 2016, there were around 4,300 (7 per cent) Mobility Allowance recipients undertaking job search activities. Current recipients will not be affected by the change.

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**Social Services Legislation Amendment (Transition Mobility Allowance to the National  
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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments      Question No: 5**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

How much would it cost to maintain access to Mobility Allowance for those undertaking voluntary work?

**Answer:**

It would cost around \$11.6 million to maintain access to Mobility Allowance for those undertaking voluntary work from 1 January 2017 until 30 June 2020.

Note that this is a stand-alone, indicative administered costing only; it has not been cleared by the Department of Finance and does not include Department of Human Services costs. There will also be ongoing Continuity of Support costs from 1 July 2020.

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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 6**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt** asked:

How many recipients does the change to restrict access to Mobility Allowance for those undertaking voluntary work affect?

**Answer:**

As at September 2016, there were around 6,500 (11 per cent) Mobility Allowance recipients participating in voluntary work. Current recipients will not be affected by the change.

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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments      Question No: 7**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

How much would it cost to maintain the Mobility Allowance grace period at 12 weeks?

**Answer:**

It would cost around \$7 million to maintain the grace period at 12 weeks from 1 January 2017 until 30 June 2020.

The costing is based on exits for people whose 12 week grace period had expired. In 2015-16, more than 7,500 MOB recipients had their MOB payments cancelled because they did not commence another activity within 12 weeks of finishing their previous activity.

Note that this is an indicative administered costing only; it has not been cleared by the Department of Finance and does not include Department of Human Services costs. There will also be ongoing Continuity of Support costs from 1 July 2020.

This change cannot be implemented for 1 January 2017.

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**Social Services Legislation Amendment (Transition Mobility Allowance to the National Disability Insurance Scheme) Bill 2016 Hearing 21 November 2016**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments      Question No: 8**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert asked:**

What data is available to show there is little difference in outcomes for 4 and 12 week grace periods?

**Answer:**

The costing is based on exits for people whose 12 week grace period had expired. In 2015-16, more than 7,500 Mobility Allowance recipients had their payments cancelled because they did not commence another activity within 12 weeks of finishing their previous activity. Due to the way the grace period is presented in the Department of Human Services ICT system, it is not possible to compare outcomes for different periods.



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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 9**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert asked:**

How many recipients are currently undertaking vocational rehabilitation as an activity?

**Answer:**

As at September 2016, there were approximately 900 Mobility Allowance recipients participating in Disability Employment Services – Disability Management Services (this is the only program that meets the definition of vocational rehabilitation under the Social Security Act for the purposes of Mobility Allowance).

The legislative definition for vocational rehabilitation under section 1035 of the Social Security Act notes that a vocational rehabilitation program may include vocational training.

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**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 10**

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert asked:**

Will young people undertaking the elements of the PaTH program be eligible for Mobility Allowance under the new arrangements?

**Answer:**

Yes, as long as they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for Mobility Allowance. Young people who are participating in Stage 1 or Stage 2 of Prepare-Trial-Hire (PaTH) would be considered to be undertaking vocational training and those participating in Stage 3 would be considered to be in gainful employment.

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**Question No:** [Click here to enter](#)

text.

**Topic: Mobility Allowance**

**Hansard page: Transcript not yet available**

**Senator Murray Watt** asked:

How many NDIA participants that transitioned off Mobility Allowance onto NDIS supports are receiving about the same level of transport supports under NDIS as they did under Mobility Allowance – that is, are they getting the same level of support?

**Answer:**

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) does not have access to information related to the level of support provided to people receiving Mobility Allowance before the person enters the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Therefore, a direct comparison cannot be provided.

The planning process is based around the person's reasonable and necessary level of support. Funding for all core supports is flexible so a participant can choose to spend more of their budget on travel.

In determining the amount of transport assistance provided, the NDIA gives consideration to the criteria used to determine Mobility Allowance rates.