

Joint Select Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Public Hearing – 13 February 2020 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Question 1

Question reference number: SQ20-000073

Senator: Carol Brown

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 11 March 2020

Question:

Mr WALLACE: When the states effectively transitioned disability care to the NDIS, a lot of that advocacy was also transitioned to the Commonwealth. The states, for example, have had a bit of an ad hoc approach to how they fund advocacy. I know that, for instance, the New South Wales government announced \$13 million in April 2018 for advocacy for disability. And this goes back to what I was talking about earlier. What's the state of play with state funding for disability advocacy and when does it run out? I know for New South Wales that \$13 million runs out in June 2020. What's the state of play with the other jurisdictions?

Mr Flavel: I'm actually quite new to this role and that's outside my area of expertise so I'll have to take that on notice and get the details, state by state, back to the committee.

Answer:

The Commonwealth and states and territories, with the exception of South Australia, currently fund disability advocacy activities.

The Commonwealth commitment to disability advocacy in 2019-2020 is over \$46 million. The Commonwealth does not hold detailed funding information about individual state and territory governments disability advocacy funding.

Through the Disability Reform Council, the Commonwealth is working with states and territories to better understand the drivers of demand for independent disability advocacy and decision-making supports, which could be expected to inform decisions around future funding arrangements.

Joint Select Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Public Hearing – 13 February 2020 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Question 2

Question reference number: SQ20-000074

Senator: Carol Brown

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 11 March 2020

Question:

Senator CAROL BROWN: I want to follow on from Mr Wallace's questions. The federal government on a number of occasions over the last year or so has called upon state and territory governments to continue their role and their funding of state based advocacy. Could you also check whether there have been ongoing discussions with the states and territories and whether there's been any movement in terms of the states and territories actually continuing to fund the role that is their responsibility to fund? This advocacy role was always a matter for state and territory governments, so I'd like to know, other than the federal government making the public statements, whether there have also been some correspondences or negotiations behind the scenes to ensure that the advocacy role is played. You can take that on notice.

Mr Flavel: I'm happy to do that.

Answer:

The Commonwealth has actively been working with states and territories to agree a shared and ongoing funding arrangement for independent disability advocacy.

At the 13 December 2019 Disability Reform Council (DRC) meeting, the importance of independent disability advocacy was acknowledged.

DRC agreed that the Commonwealth would lead work to better understand the drivers of demand for independent disability advocacy and decision-making support. This work will also consider recent reviews relating to disability advocacy such as the New South Wales (NSW) Ageing and Disability Commissioner's Review into Disability Advocacy in NSW.

This work is being undertaken through the Senior Officials Working Group, which reports to DRC.