

Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry into NDIS Planning

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry into NDIS Planning - Written Questions on Notice - Question 1 - Funding for the NDIA and NDIS

Question reference number: SQ20-000582

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 02 October 2020

Question:

How is the government ensuring that the NDIA and the NDIS are sufficiently funded to:

- a) Provide the supports that participants need?
- b) Complete plan reviews within reasonable timeframes?
- c) Ensure that planning staff are not subject to unreasonable KPIs?
- d) Ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff to deal with plans and reviews?

Answer:

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the NDIS is fully funded both for participant supports and for the NDIA's operating expenses. The appropriation bills the Government puts to the parliament ensure that, together with the funds paid to the NDIA by states and territories, the funds the NDIA receives and holds are sufficient to meet all the expenditure incurred.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS inquiry into NDIS Planning - Written Questions on Notice - Question 2 - Funding for Advocacy Organisations

Question reference number: SQ20-000583

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 October 2020

Question:

How does the Australian Government fund advocacy organisations that support participants appealing to the AAT, besides Legal Aid? What measures are in place to ensure that these organisations are willing to support participants in appeals, if they receive funding from government?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services (the department) funds the NDIS Appeals program to ensure that people with disability, and other people affected by reviewable decisions of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), have access to support when seeking review of those decisions in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Under the NDIS Appeals program, 42 advocacy organisations and eight Legal Aid Commissions are funded.

Grant agreement arrangements in the NDIS Appeals program require organisations to support participants in the appeals process.