

Community Affairs References Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings

Public Hearing – 30 June 2015

Agency: National Disability Insurance Agency

Question No: NDIA SQ15-000105

Topic: Statistics on Use of Operational Guideline - Responding to abuse, neglect and exploitation

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Senator MOORE: Do you have any stats on how many times that guideline has been used? Can you take that on notice?

Mr Bowen: I will take it on notice. The number of occasions where we have made a formal referral is limited, but I am happy to provide you with that schedule.

Senator MOORE: That would be great—thank you.

Mr Bowen: With the committee's instruction, we would de-identify that.

Senator MOORE: Yes, please.

Mr Bowen: We will just identify the number of instances, the nature of them and what the referral has been.

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) makes readily available Operational Guidelines on its internal and external websites that staff reference as required.

Since 1 July 2013, the NDIA has made 24 referrals to external authorities based on the Operational Guidelines and the bilateral agreements – Quality and Safeguard Working Arrangements – developed within each jurisdiction.

The nature of the referrals includes allegations of child safety being at risk, allegations of provider employee exploitation, and risk to health, safety and welfare of participants.

The Quality and Safeguard Working Arrangements provide for specific reporting obligations. As required by the Arrangements, the NDIA has referred incidents to state or territory departments and authorities, including the Child Abuse Reporting line, the Child Protection Agency and Disability Services Commissioner offices.