

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

As requested by Senator Carol Brown please find below information about Participants that have asked for employment to be in their plans but have not received that support.

Northcott has 24 Participants that have asked for employment to be in their plans but have not received that support.

Location	Number
Illawarra	3
South Eastern Sydney	11
South Western Sydney	0
Western Sydney	10
Total	24

Case study

Participant A has had a goal and continues to have a goal around employment. This goal was recorded in the 2018 and 2019 NDIS Plan.

2018 NDIS Plan

My First Goal is:

During this plan: I would like to continue with my school leaver employment support program to ensure I am capable of working independently in the future.

2019 NDIS Plan

Goal/s my Capacity Building Supports funding can help me achieve:

- To continue to learn strategies to manage and overcome situations I find difficult when dealing with my peers so I can be a more active member of society.
- To continue to improve my communication skills to increase my self-confidence and independence.
- To have support in moving forward towards finding and keeping a job.

Goal/s my Core Supports funding can help me achieve:

- To participate in social activities and have support to access the community and activities I enjoy as independently as possible.
- To continue with my vocational skills program to ensure I am capable of being more independent in the future.
- To have support to maintain my home environment to assist and sustain my informal supports providing care for me.
- To have support in moving forward towards finding and keeping a job.

In 2018 Participant A received capacity building funding in the category 'finding and keeping a job'. Whereas in 2019 Participant A did not receive any capacity building funding in the category 'finding and keeping a job' and received minimal funding (\$10,333) in core supports despite still having goals around employment

Quotes from employment skills Coordinators

Coordinator 1

"I have also heard but can not confirm some planers are not acknowledging SLES until the school leaver is 18, or the plan does not include SLES even though they have left school then this requires review"

Coordinator 2

"Letters were sent for each of these customers detailing their progress, areas for improvement & suggestions of funding required for them to achieve their employment goals. Not one of these customers obtained – Capacity Building Funding for 'Finding & Keeping a Job'

My overall thought is that the NDIS feel that they have had two years of SLES and can go to a DES. The customers seem to be getting funding for social, cooking etc. Seems to me the priority or the NDIS don't understand the complexity of the skill building needed or the priority is not being given to getting a job."

Summary

There seems to be a pattern of a general approach whereby participants that have SLES funding are deemed to be suitable for moving to a DES provider after a fixed period of time. This is rather than looking at each person's individual circumstances and progress.