

## **NDIA response to information request on the funding provided specifically for mental health projects, including ongoing development and transition funding, for service providers in the ACT**

On 20 January 2017, the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme requested information on the funding provided specifically for mental health projects, including ongoing development and transition funding, for service providers in the ACT.

The NDIA provided the following response on 23 February 2017:

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The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has not directly funded mental health projects in the ACT.

### Transition of Mental Health Programs

- Four Commonwealth Mental Health Programs; Partners in Recovery (PIR), Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS), Day to Day Living and Mental Health Carers Respite have transitioned into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). In addition, a range of state/territory based programs are transitioning as per bilateral agreements.
- Approximately 11.3 per cent of all participants in the ACT have psychosocial disability as their primary disability, which is consistent with Productivity Commission modelling.
- Importantly, 58 per cent of all NDIS participants having psychosocial disability as their primary disability are recorded as not previously receiving services (prior to the NDIS).

### NDIS psychosocial registered providers – ACT

- Under the NDIS, participants have the choice and control to decide which registered service provider they would like to work with to deliver reasonable and necessary supports in their NDIS plan.
- There are more than 20 registered service providers in the ACT that provide tailored services for people with psychosocial disability.

### Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)

- ILC was not a feature of the NDIS trial period. The NDIA will start rolling out ILC across the country in 2017. ILC will start at different times across Australia.
- ILC will commence first in the ACT on 1 July 2017. The first open grant round for ILC activities in the ACT opened on 24 January 2017 and will close on 8 March 2017.
- The NDIA recognises that ILC represents a significant change for both organisations and people with disability.

- The NDIA has supported existing ILC-type activities in states and territories, including the ACT, in the lead up to ILC commencing in each jurisdiction.
- The NDIA has provided transitional funding (\$147,662) to the ACT Government until 30 June 2017 for ILC-type activities, which has included a mental health project delivered by Volunteering and Contact ACT. This project aims to support people with psychosocial disability develop skills and confidence through volunteering opportunities in the community.

#### Information and Contacts

- Organisations interested in finding out more about ILC should visit the [ILC homepage](#) on the NDIS website. Organisations are also welcome to sign up for regular news updates.
  - Information about the ILC grant round for ACT and the application pack can be found at the Department of Social Services Community Grants Hub – [www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants)
  - The Agency continues to work closely with the mental health sector and would be able to provide suitable contact details for individuals and organisations who sit on the Agency's National Mental Health Sector Reference Group (NMHSRG), including Mental Health Australia (MHA) and government departments responsible for mental health program funding that is being transitioned to the NDIS, if that would be of assistance.
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