

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 5.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ16-000126**

**Topic: Signing of Bilateral Agreements**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Carol Brown asked:**

On 3 December Minister Porter announced in a media release that the Commonwealth had reached an agreement with Tasmania on the full rollout of the NDIS. However, I understand the actual agreement wasn't signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Tasmania until the COAG meeting on 11 December.

Why was the agreement announced eight days before it was signed?

For New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, the agreements were announced on the same day they were signed. Why was it different for Tasmania?

Was there any further work done by jurisdictions on the detail of the agreement between the 3rd of December and the 11th of December?

**Answer:**

Both the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP, and the Tasmanian Minister for Human Services, the Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP, announced the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments had reached agreement on the full roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on 3 December 2015.

*The Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania for the transition to an National Disability Insurance Scheme* was signed on 11 December 2015 as it was the most practical time for the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, and the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, to sign the agreement as they were both attending the Council of Australian Governments meeting.

No further work was undertaken by jurisdictions on the agreement between 3 December 2015 and 11 December 2015.