

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: SQ16-000131

Topic: Sector Development Fund

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

What is the process for allocating funding? Are there specific grant rounds? How many per year, and how long are they open for?

Answer:

The Sector Development Fund (the Fund) has five outcomes against which it funds projects:

- building community capacity and engagement;
- increasing individual support capacity and development of new forms of support to meet the needs of people with disability;
- building disability sector capacity and service provider readiness to manage the transition;
- assistance with the required expansion and diversification of the workforce; and
- building the evidence base.

These outcomes are supported by priorities identified in the Market, Sector and Workforce Strategy.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) works with the states and territories and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to identify potential projects that meet these outcomes. Projects may be of national application or specific to a state.

The selection of projects is done through open, restricted or direct selection. The type of selection process used determines how long the application process is open. For example, the Department of Social Services is currently undertaking a selection process for the Specialist Disability Accommodation Initiative. This was advertised as an open selection from 3 December 2015 to 11 February 2016. Information on open selection processes are published on the Department of Social Services website at www.dss.gov.au/grants and the National Disability Insurance Scheme website.

In addition, project proposals can be sent directly to the DSS for consideration. Each proposal is considered on a case-by-case basis and must align with the outcomes and priorities of the Fund.

There is no set number of funding rounds required per year.