

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: SQ16-000217

Topic: NDIS

Hansard page: Written

Senator Kim Carr asked:

How will the NDIS affect SWEP (the Victorian State Wide Equipment Program) - and similar programs in other states - funding and turnaround times for individuals over 65?

Answer:

Decisions about the Victorian SWEP are a matter for the Victorian Government.

Eligibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is limited to people under the age of 65. However, people who are scheme participants can choose to remain in the scheme after they turn 65.

The Council of Australian Governments has agreed that people with disability who are currently receiving supports, but who are ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), will be provided with continuity of support in the transition to the NDIS. To meet this commitment, a new Commonwealth Continuity of Support (CoS) Programme will be established to assist older people who do not meet NDIS eligibility.

The CoS Programme will support people aged 65 years and over and Indigenous people aged 50 years and over, who are currently receiving state-managed specialist disability services but are ineligible for the NDIS. The objective of the Programme is to support clients to achieve similar outcomes to those they were achieving prior to transitioning to the new arrangements.

The Australian Government and Victorian Government are working to finalise implementation arrangements including any interactions between the CoS Programme and other state-based programs.