

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015 - 2016 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome: National Disability Insurance Agency

Question No: NDIA SQ16-000010

Topic: NDIS programme funding

Hansard Page: CA54

CHAIR: Maybe take this question on notice. I can only assume it was agreed that it did not fit within the framework, which is why it is going to lose funding from 1 July. Presumably, it is then a question for the local government as to whether they continue to fund it separately from any NDIS agreement. Is that a reasonable—

Ms Glanville: Yes. That is right. With some programs, there might be a way of helping them look at their model of how they deliver services to see if it can be something which is funded. But essentially the proposition is right as you put it.

CHAIR: Because it is very valued here in Canberra, and I am sure it is in other places where it is delivered. It does seem a pretty important service to people with disabilities. You would think we would be able to find some way of fitting it in the framework; I put that to you. If there is any additional information you are able to come back with on notice, I would appreciate it.

Ms Glanville: Yes. I am happy to do that.

Ms Glanville: It is probably important to say that we can provide in this information what funding they receive from other government departments, for example, at both state and federal level.

Answer:

The Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Policy Framework, agreed to by the Disability Reform Council in August 2015, is being progressively implemented by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The NDIA has developed a draft ILC Commissioning Framework, which outlines the investment priorities for ILC services and sets out the implementation process.

From 1 July 2016, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) will be the first jurisdiction to move to full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). On that basis, the NDIA will assume responsibility for funding ILC services in the ACT.

The NDIA has worked with the ACT Government to identify programmes it currently funds that are in scope of the ILC policy. These programmes are being funded for a further 12 months until 30 June 2017, during which time a competitive application process will be run for future ILC services in the ACT. Future funding for all organisations offering services that are consistent with the ILC priorities in the ACT will be dependent on the outcomes of this competitive process.

Both the investment priorities and the focus of ILC activities are being developed through a consultation process with organisations and people with disabilities. All ACT disability organisations were encouraged to attend the second round of consultations on the draft Commissioning Framework for ILC services. These consultations were held in the ACT on 29 February and 1 March 2016 and were well attended by local service providers, people with disability, and families and carers. Full details on the ILC Policy Framework and the draft ILC Commissioning Framework are available on the NDIS website at: www.ndis.gov.au//community/ilc-home.

Canberra Radio for the Print Handicapped (1RPH)

Through consultation with the ACT Government, the NDIA is aware that 1RPH currently receives \$38,000 in ACT Government disability funding. The Community Broadcasting Foundation Annual Report of 2014-15 reported grants totalling \$58,607 to 1RPH. 1RPH reported further revenue of \$48,000 in its 2014-15 Financial Report. The NDIA has met with representatives from 1RPH and with the National President of RPH and discussed that to be eligible for ILC funding, the stations would need to present information specific to the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers. The current service, which includes reading out local newspapers and articles of interest from various magazines, and a continual news service sourced from partner stations, does not currently meet the ILC Policy Framework.

The NDIA is continuing to meet with RPH representatives on possible changes to RPH programming and potential changes to the business model which may allow RPH stations to be eligible for ILC funding for some elements of their work. Additionally, the NDIA has offered to assist in discussions on further funding options with the main funding body for RPH stations, the Community Broadcasting Foundation, an independent body in the Communications and the Arts portfolio, in recognition of the wider value that the service offers to the broader community.

The NDIA will continue discussions with local and national representatives from a range of disability organisations which may be impacted by the implementation of the ILC Policy Framework.

The ACT Government has also made funding available through NDIS Business Investment Packages to support organisations transitioning to the NDIS. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to assist with business improvements, including IT upgrades and training.