

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 98

Topic: DisabilityCare Australia

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the three recommendations in the Senate Community Affairs Committee's report on the NDIS Primary Legislation regarding the issue of the age 65 criterion, could you provide specific answers as to how each of those areas is going to assist with coping with people who have a disability and whether they are going to have the same standard of care if they stay in the NDIS scheme as opposed to those who acquire a disability after 65.

Answer:

The *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* ensures that participants will be able to choose to remain in the scheme after they turn age 65, and people with degenerative conditions who are under the age of 65 can enter the scheme through the early intervention requirements prior to their condition progressing to a point where they experience severe or profound impairment and meet the disability requirements for access to the scheme.

The age 65 threshold ensures that DisabilityCare Australia will complement the aged care system, and avoid duplication. Existing services for older Australians, such as hearing and vision services, will continue to provide supports to older people with a disability and are unaffected by the launch of DisabilityCare Australia.