

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

Outcome Number: 5.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ15-000412

Topic: Transition to aged care

Hansard page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

What work is being undertaken to ensure appropriate transition to aged care for those people covered by Disability services as they approach the age of 65 years?

Answer:

Prior to the full nationwide rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), it is the role of the state and territory governments to deliver specialist disability services such as supported accommodation, respite and community support services (for example, therapy, life skills and case management) for people over the age of 65.

Those people who have moved across to the NDIS, or those still receiving Commonwealth, state and territory specialist disability services, may transition to Aged Care at any time.

When an NDIS participant turns 65 years old, they can choose to continue to receive supports from the NDIS or take up an aged care place where eligible. For NDIS participants aged 65 years or over who choose to move into aged care, the NDIS will work with participants, family members and Aged Care services to ensure a smooth and seamless transition from the NDIS to the Aged Care system.

Where current specialist disability service clients are ineligible to participate in the NDIS, for example, because they have reached 65 years, they will continue to receive specialist disability support. There is a Council of Australian Governments commitment to provide 'continuity of support' during the introduction of the NDIS. The continuity of support arrangements during the transition phase of NDIS implementation are currently being developed and will include support for people to transition to Aged Care, where appropriate.

Through My Aged Care, the Commonwealth provides easily identifiable entry points that make it easier for older people, their families, and carers to access information on ageing and aged care. The service simplifies and standardises the aged care needs assessment, and provides support for locating and accessing appropriate services.