

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

Outcome: National Disability Insurance Agency

Question No: NDIA SQ15-000071

Topic: Funding for Advocacy to support participants with intellectual and psychosocial disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

1. How are people with serious intellectual disability and mental health issues supported to participate in the NDIS?
2. Has there been consideration to fund personal advocates to build and strengthen trusting relationships?
3. How will personal advocacy be supported within the NDIS?

Answer:

All National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants are able to access advocates or other informal supports for all interactions with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The NDIA also recognises and appreciates that some participants need additional support to engage with the NDIS, articulate their needs and to achieve their goals. The NDIA has built working relationships with both state and national advocacy networks and also works closely with statutory authorities such as the Office of the Public Advocate to ensure participants have access to advocacy support.

The NDIA has supported peer advocacy in some trial sites using Community Inclusion and Capacity Development funds.

Participants who require support for implementation of their plan may receive funding for a Support Coordinator to support and build the capacity of the participant and their networks and to implement their plan including self-directing their supports. The NDIA also reviews all information to ensure it is in formats that are accessible to participants. Many of the skills required for self-advocacy are based on capacity building, which is funded through participant plans.