

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

Outcome Number: 3.1 Access and Information

Question No: SQ15-000647

Topic: Aged Care

Hansard page: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

People who are blind or vision impaired excluded from the NDIS based on age, are being forced to rely on the Aged Care system. The recent ACAR awarded no packages to any specialist disability provider.

- Did any services receive block funding?
- What the criteria was for block funding?
- Who made the decision?
- What contestability was applied?
- What provisions are being made to ensure that older people who are blind or vision impaired have access to appropriate services for their needs?

Answer: The Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) is a competitive application process that enables prospective and existing approved providers of aged care to apply for a range of new Australian Government funded aged care places (both residential aged care places and home care places) and financial assistance in the form of a capital grant. It is not designed to award packages to disability service providers.

The Home Care Packages Programme has been developed to assist older Australians to remain in their homes, particularly targeting frail older people. Once a person is approved as eligible for a Home Care Package, as part of the ACAT assessment, package participants may be referred to a medical or health practitioner/service for more specialised assessment of needs, such as those associated with vision impairment or blindness, hearing loss, other disabilities or nutrition. Where required, a consumer may also be able to access nursing, allied health or other clinical services (such as hearing or vision services) under any level of Home Care Package.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) funding (formerly Commonwealth HACC and National Respite for Carers) is provided to a range of service providers delivering home support. Additional services may also be funded in Victoria and Western Australia though the state managed HACC programmes.

Services provided to vision impaired older people through the CHSP service include: allied health, goods and equipment; sector support, centre-based day care and respite services. In recognition of the fact that some people require more specialised support, the Government has created a new service type within CHSP for people with specialised needs, which may in future include specialised support for people with vision impairment.

Specifically identified services funded under CHSP for people with vision impairment are outlined in the following table:

STATE	PROVIDER NAME	Services	exc GST 15/16
NSW	Vision Australia Limited	Allied health	\$440,668.14
QLD	Vision Australia Limited	Sector Support and Development	\$27,029.67
SA	Blind Welfare Association of South Australia Incorporated	Centre-based day care ,Counselling/support, information and advocacy, Domestic assistance, Respite care, Social support and Transport	\$47,300.68
NSW	Royal Society for the Blind of South Australia Inc	Allied health, Goods and equipment	\$111,465.67
SA	Royal Society for the Blind of South Australia Inc	Centre-based day care, Social support and Transport	\$61,174.33
VIC	Vision Australia Foundation	planned respite services	\$33,171
QLD	Vision Australia	planned respite services	\$21,194