

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

Outcome Number: 5.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme

Question No: SQ15-000654

Topic: Advocacy

Hansard page: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

What expectations are in place for NDAP agencies to provide advocacy for young people in nursing homes?

Answer:

The target group for advocacy support provided by NDAP agencies consists of people with a disability that:

- is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of such impairments;
- is permanent or likely to be permanent; and results in:
 - a substantially reduced capacity of the person for communication, learning or mobility; and
 - the need for support services.

It is important to note that the above target group, as defined by the *Disability Services Act 1986*, does not restrict eligibility based on age. NDAP agencies should not apply an age restriction on eligibility for advocacy support.

All people with disability residing in the service area defined in the grant agreement with an NDAP agency should have equal access to disability advocacy support. In providing disability advocacy, agencies are expected to meet the diverse needs of their community and ensure all groups can access culturally appropriate support.

Access to disability advocacy support under the NDAP should be based on vulnerability and fundamental need.

Young people in nursing homes fall within this target group.