

**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 SQ15-000102

**Topic:** Funding to support CALD/NESB engagement

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

I understand from media reports that NEDA have provided the Government with findings from community discussions about engaging with CALD/NESB community members with a disability.

1. What is the Government's response to these findings and suggestions?
2. What funding has been made available to assist providers in engaging with CALD/NESB community members with a disability?

**Answer:**

1. The National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) CALD strategy is currently being developed, incorporating best practice principles obtained through extensive consultation.

This strategy will outline the NDIA's commitment to the key priority areas of:

- integrating diversity into planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- building organisational capacity to work with diverse communities; and
- designing and administering a responsive NDIS for Australia's diverse communities.

The strategy is expected to be completed by late 2015.

The strategy is based on input from discussions with sector representatives, insights from community groups, trial site learnings and experiences from other jurisdictions. It has also included the receipt and review of numerous written submissions to the NDIA including those from NEDA and the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA).

Senior Officials from the NDIA have had a number of discussions with the NEDA Chief Executive Officer. The most recent meeting was held on 2 July 2015 and provided NEDA with an update on progress in the development of the NDIA CALD strategy and a broad outline of the steps to be taken over the next 12 months. NEDA was enthusiastic about the NDIA approach.

2. The NDIA Community Inclusion and Capability Development (CIDC) fund provides opportunities for eligible service providers to apply for grants during the trial period.

Activities which may be funded include those which:

- promote access to community and daily life to increase participation for people with disability;
- support social and employment participation for people with disability;
- encourage involvement in community activities for people with disability;
- reduce social isolation for people with disability;
- build community awareness of disabilities; and/or
- build capacity of people with disability to optimise supports from the NDIA.

There are trial site specific initiatives such as the CICD grant in South Australia, which involves working with CALD groups including Greek, Vietnamese and African communities to develop individual strategies to access the Scheme