

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 SQ15-000069

Topic: NDIA Assistive Technology Discussion Paper

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Concerns have been raised about the NDIA discussion paper on assistive technology. Although it highlights choice and control, there is a concern that there is going to be a centralised top down purchasing arrangement. How is this going to be managed to ensure there is a real choice?

Answer:

The focus for the NDIA's Assistive Technology strategy is intended to address the key priorities of stimulating innovation, developing informed and active participant demand, as well as ensuring sustainability and value for the NDIS. Further participant input, feedback and testing is now occurring to guide the current work underway by the NDIA. Once the strategy is finalised it will be publicly released by the NDIA.

The NDIA is planning to employ different procurement strategies depending on the nature of the technology. Strategies that involve central procurement will involve participants in product evaluation and will ensure there is a wide choice of suitable products available for participants. There will always be options for participants to have greater choice and access for more customised solutions when necessary.