

**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 SQ15-000073

**Topic:** Scheme performance in the Barkly trial site

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Moore** asked:

What is the Agency doing to respond to the slow progress in the Northern Territory on reaching its targets?

**Answer:**

As at 31 March 2015, there were 53 participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in the Barkly trial site, which represents 35 per cent of the bilateral target. Of these, 48 participants had an approved plan, which is 32 per cent of the bilateral target.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has continued to work collaboratively with the Northern Territory (NT) Office of Disability to identify and engage with people who have received services from the NT Government in the past, and who may be eligible for the NDIS. The Section 55 list of prospective participants provided by the NT Office of Disability has had further analysis undertaken jointly with NDIA, and this work has revealed that some of the people first identified as prospective participants would, for appropriate reasons, not be entering into the NDIS. The reasons include that the people do not have a disability, are receiving supports for reasons not related to disability or they are deceased. This information has been shared with the NT Office of Disability. The remaining people who have already had an eligibility assessment are being followed up by NDIA.

The NDIA is continuing to engage with local service providers and the NT Office of Disability to support people's pathways to access the NDIS.

NDIA staff are continuing to work with local communities to build trust and invest in local relationships to continue to build the learning of the NDIS in rural and remote areas, and ensure that the NDIS reaches out to all potential participants.

In response to the recognition that people can find the Access Request Form (ARF) difficult to complete, a shorter, simplified ARF has been developed and is used for people who have difficulty completing the standard ARF. Trial site staff are using interpreters to assist with explaining the ARF when required.

The use of pictorial storyboards are regularly used to assist in conveying an understanding of the NDIS to potential participants in remote communities. An electronic version of the storyboard is also being developed for display via iPads.