

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000898

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: NDIS Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Can the Department provide details in relation to the 'continuity of support' provision that the Commonwealth, States and Territory Governments have a responsibility to provide for those people who will not be eligible for the NDIS? Where is this documented and can the Department provide a copy of this agreed position? What are the timeframes in relation to this 'continuity of support' agreement? In relation to the State and Territory Governments' matched contributions in relation to the \$80 million Budget initiative, can the Department explain what will happen to people living with a mental illness who are not eligible for the NDIS in a jurisdiction that decides not to participate in this funding arrangement? Can the Department explain how these individuals will continue to access services? Noting there have been estimated figures from the Government about eligibility through the Department of Health's Productivity Commission submission but that there are also anecdotal figures about the level of eligibility, has there been a proper piece of work examining the exact levels of ineligibility and what percentage or numbers of people the \$80 million (and then \$160 million) will actually assist, and would there still be a gap?

Answer:

1. The Department of Social Services has policy responsibility for all aspects of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), including Continuity of Support.
2. The National Psychosocial Supports measure is contingent on state and territories contributing funding. Jurisdictions that choose not to contribute funding to maintain psychosocial supports outside of the NDIS will not receive a Commonwealth contribution. The provision of community mental health services is primarily a state and territory responsibility.
3. As transition to the NDIS progresses and individuals test their eligibility to the Scheme, further information will become available. The Department of Health continues to closely monitor the transition.
4. Internal departmental modeling in 2016 using the National Mental Health Service Planning Framework (NMHSPF) estimates that 281,840 people aged 0-64 years would have a severe disorder requiring psychosocial supports. Not all individuals would meet NDIS eligibility requirements around severity or permanence of disability.

It is estimated that 91,916 people aged 18-64 years with severe and complex disorders would most closely align with the NDIS cohort (for example, people who meet the access requirements for individually funded packages), noting that the NMHSPF does not account for other disabilities that may be experienced by this cohort. The remaining cohort would require lower levels of assistance. It should be noted that there are limitations in using a resource planning tool to approximate population sizes in relation to NDIS eligibility. The number of people who would receive supports through the National Psychosocial Supports measure is dependent on the total level of funding, and the type of supports provided through the program.