

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001058

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: NDIS

Type of Question: Hansard Page 11, 30 May 2017

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Here in the ACT, I understand there are issues around some of the services finishing. Will those specific issues be dealt with here in Canberra with this money most immediately?

Ms Cole: Most of the clients in the ACT have actually transitioned to the NDIS. From my understanding, there are about 40 individuals who are left and some of those have chosen not to even apply. They would be clients who could fit under this category.

Senator SIEWERT: That is what I am asking about.

Ms Cole: The other thing to take into account is that I understand the ACT government, as the 'major responsibility' government for this area, is actually providing services or funding for services for those 40-odd individuals at the moment. But I can confirm all of that and come back to you.

Answer:

The Partners in Recovery (PIR) program has been extended until 30 June 2019 to ensure service continuity and to support the transition of eligible clients to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Primary Health Network (PHN) is funded to deliver PIR services until 30 June 2019. A number of ACT PIR clients have yet to seek access to the NDIS. The Department of Health is working closely with service providers to support all eligible clients to seek access by 30 June 2019.

All governments have committed to providing continuity of support for existing clients who are not eligible for the NDIS. For the Commonwealth, this means that where existing Commonwealth program funding is rolling into the NDIS, program clients who are not deemed eligible for the NDIS will continue to receive supports. During the NDIS transition period this will be achieved through existing program structures and services. Longer term arrangements beyond transition will be made in the light of experience in the trial and transition phases.

Through the 2017-18 Federal Budget a total of \$80 million over four years was announced to support people with severe mental illness and psychosocial disability who are not eligible for the NDIS. The Commonwealth funding will be contingent on contributions from state and territories. On 25 May 2017, Minister Hunt wrote to state and territory Health Ministers to commence negotiations.