

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome: 5

Question No: 59

Topic: Non-eligible by Programme

Hansard Page: 125-126

Mr Bowen: Yes. We have conducted a review of all non-eligible decisions through to the end of March—a bit over 400 of them. As a result, we have reversed about 96 of those where we thought we had applied the eligibility criteria a little bit harder than perhaps the legislation and the rules intended. Some of that did include PHAMS clients. We do not have the breakdown of the non-eligible by program with us tonight but we can take that on notice and provide that. The more important issue going forward is to understand those people who have an episodic support need but at a level that warrants support through the NDIS being able to be supported either by coming into tier 3 or, as Dr Hartland indicated, having a little latitude in terms of what is spent in tier 2. But for those who do not have that support need at that level equivalent to NDIS there is something else in place.

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) does not have access to client level programme information for all existing state and Commonwealth programmes. As such, it is not possible to determine the programmes under which people who have been found ineligible are receiving services.

The Agency's experience to date is that people do not necessarily know which programmes are funding their support. The Agency is working with the Department of Social Services to identify existing Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS) clients who have been found ineligible but that work is yet to be completed.