

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 544

Topic: Disability and carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Has the Department been consulting with carer organisations about the introduction of the NDIS? If so, which organisations and how many times have they met with each one?

Answer:

During the design phase of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Commonwealth provided funding to the National Disability and Carer Alliance to engage with people with disability, their families and carers on key design issues. The Alliance consisted of National Disability Services, Carers Australia and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. The Alliance supported peak and grass roots disability organisations to engage with their members, people with disability, their families and carers on the design of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). As well as this, representatives of Carers Australia were members of expert working groups providing advice on a range of aspects in the development of the NDIS, including: Eligibility and Assessment; National Approach to Control and Choice; Quality and Safeguards Framework; and Disability Workforce and Sector Capacity.

The National Disability and Carers Alliance has also been funded to increase awareness and understanding about the NDIS and how it operates amongst people with disability and their families.

The Department of Social Services continues to have regular engagement with representatives of Carers Australia, and other carers stakeholders, to discuss any emerging policy issues around the implementation of the NDIS and their impact on carers.