

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 556

Topic: NDIS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

There are a number of Commonwealth and state programs that are either being rolled into the NDIS or set to expire at the end of this year or the middle of next year - for example the Personal Helpers and Mentors Scheme (PHaMS). When Labor left office, work was well underway on arrangements to ensure the ongoing provision of services to people with disability who were not going to be eligible for the NDIS. Where is this work up to - how exactly will the Government ensure that recipients of PHaMS, for example, who are not eligible for the NDIS continue to receive the services they need?

Answer:

All governments have committed to ensuring that people currently receiving services under Commonwealth and state programmes, including recipients of PHaMs, are not disadvantaged by the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trials through continuity of support arrangements.

The Department of Social Services has developed detailed transition plans for Commonwealth programmes to ensure that the transition of Commonwealth clients to the NDIS is managed appropriately. These include strategies to manage issues related to transition including continuity of support, and the transition of clients to the NDIS. In addition, the Department has been working closely with the National Disability Insurance Agency and service providers in NDIS trial sites to identify and address potential service gaps where existing clients are ineligible to participate in the NDIS.

The Government and state and territory governments have forums in place to raise a range of transition issues, including continuity of support issues, and share relevant experience and lessons learnt from the NDIS trial sites.