

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

Outcome: 5

Question No: 574

Topic: Sector Development Fund Strategy and Scope

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

- a. Is there a strategic plan for the Sector Development Fund? If so what is it? If not, why not?
- b. Do the States play any role with the Sector Development Fund?
- c. If they do, how much money sits with the States as opposed to money within the Scheme?
- d. Is there provision for money from the Sector Development Fund to be spent outside the disability sector to undertake capacity building and partnership funding with health, education and others that go beyond the bi-laterals?

Answer:

- a. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has developed a Sector Development Fund strategy. Projects and activities are regularly reviewed to ensure their outcomes are consistent and aligned with the Sector Development Fund strategy.

Sector Development Fund outcomes are as follows:

- increase the capacity of people with disability and their families to exercise choice and control both in engaging with the NDIA and in purchasing supports in an open market in order to realise their aspirations;
 - a well-developed market, informed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Market Strategy, capable of providing the necessary supports required for full Scheme transition;
 - increase the disability services workforce to meet the needs of people with disability. By beginning of full Scheme, a larger workforce should be developing which is stronger, more diverse and better equipped to deliver high quality responsive support reflecting the choices of people with disability; and
 - increase the capacity of the sector and the NDIA to meet the needs of people with disability both through improved access to data and research and through establishing sound practice in continuous improvement that reflects insurance principles.
- b. The former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs – now the Department of Social Services – managed the Sector Development Fund during 2012-13. The Department established initial outcomes and priorities for the fund in consultation with state and territory governments. The four Sector Development Fund outcomes, documented above, have been developed to be consistent with priorities and principles previously agreed between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

- c. Each state and territory government was provided with sector development funding to undertake sector development activities tailored to each jurisdiction's unique market environment in preparation for trial and full Scheme commencement. \$19.5 million has been or will be provided to state and territory governments for their own activities.
- d. Some of the activities funded under the Sector Development Fund may benefit providers operating across markets and sectors. Some individual capacity building activities will also enhance individual capability to navigate across systems. However, prime responsibility for building the capacity of mainstream systems to interact with the NDIS remains the responsibility of those systems.