

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Question No: SQ15-000860

Outcome Number: 5.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme

Topic: NDIS - Funding for Merits Review

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

1. How much funding was provided for advocacy services under the External Merits review - support component in the past year for persons wishing to seek external merits review on a decision of the National Disability Insurance Agency?
2. How much funding was provided for legal assistance for external merits review in both the AAT and Federal Court?
3. How many people are estimated to have been assisted by both streams of funding?

Answer:

1. In 2014-15, funding of \$777,135 was provided for advocacy supports under the External Merits Review- Support Component (EMR-SC).
2. In 2014-15, funding of \$147,502 was accessed for legal assistance under the EMR-SC for AAT cases. The funding provided under the EMR-SC may not be used for the provision of legal services in jurisdictions beyond the AAT.
3. In 2014-15, 18 people benefited from individual EMR-SC support through the AAT process. A larger number of people have been indirectly assisted through information, education and capacity building by EMR-SC providers.