

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

Outcome Number: 5.1 Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme

Question No: SQ15-000874

Topic: Younger onset dementia

Hansard page: Written

Senator Helen Polley asked:

The Community Affairs Reference Committee released its report into the adequacy of existing residential care arrangements available for young people with severe physical, mental or intellectual disabilities in Australia in June 2015. It was recommended (recommendation 9) that the National Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program be extended to all those under 65 years at risk of placement in a residential care facility.

Given the acknowledgement that the YODKWP needs to work alongside of the NDIS, rather than be replaced by the NDIS, will funding be restored for the YODKWP, previously funded out of DoHA and then moved to DSS? Particularly in light of the fact that it is acknowledged this is a more effective and preferred model for caring for people with YOD?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services is preparing a response to the Community Affairs Reference Committee's report "Adequacy of existing residential care arrangements available for young people with severe physical, mental or intellectual disabilities in Australia". Recommendation 9 will be addressed as part of the Governments response.

The Department is working with Alzheimer's Australia (AA), the national YODKWP provider, and the National Disability Insurance Agency to identify transition issues and develop workable solutions. Extending funding of AA for the provision of the YODKWP is being considered as part of this engagement.