

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016 – 2017 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome: National Disability Insurance Agency

Question No: NDIA SQ16-000046

Topic: Young people in residential aged care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert, asked:

What is the NDIA doing to make sure all young people in aged care become NDIS participants?

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Agency responded to this question on the day of the hearing (refer to pages 69 and 70 of the Hansard).

Extract of the Agency's response is below.

NDIA response to the above question (Page 69 and 70 of Hansard 20 October 2016)

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. In terms of this issue around priority and targeting some of those priority groups, particularly this cohort, what is the process, if there is one, for prioritising people with urgent and immediate need such as young people in residential aged care?

Mr Maynard: What I will outline is an approach that we are taking in Victoria North as we roll out within that region, where the agency and the regional office is working in collaboration with Children and Young People in Nursing Home Alliance to move ahead of transitioning of participants into the scheme, accessing nursing homes, identifying high-risk participants and then working with the agency to bring them forward in the priorities. That is giving us some very valuable insight and learnings around how we can better target our preplanning and awareness activities, particularly with residential care and nursing home operators.

Senator SIEWERT: I appreciate that update. Will that be taken on board for the rest of the rollout so that there will be a prioritising process for young people in nursing homes?

Mr Maynard: The intention is that we will learn from this approach, as we did with the trial. We will then look to adopt those learnings and make them part of our preplanning and engagement activities.

Senator SIEWERT: I will ask directly: will there be a prioritising process for them?

Mr Maynard: The intention is, yes. We do not have a process yet. It will be informed by the work that we are doing in that rollout area.

Senator SIEWERT: So, the intention is, yes, but no process at the moment?

Mr Maynard: That is correct.

Senator SIEWERT: What is the timeline for developing the process?

Mr Maynard: I do not have a timeline on that, either.

Senator SIEWERT: Six months? For the process, I mean?

Mr Maynard: I expect we would get some early results within three to six months. Then we would look, as an agency, at how our engagement strategies would need to be modified. It would be a six- to nine-month timeline.

Mr Bowen: First, the entry of people overall has to operate in accordance with the priorities set out in the bilateral agreement. We would go to those people as that sets out.

Secondly, and critically, one of the learnings from the trial of course is that supporting a person in the community needs appropriate housing options. The Disability Reform Council has signed off on specialist disability accommodation. The agency is now operationalising that, and we are keen to see new and more appropriate housing starting to be constructed, but there is a lead-in time around that and there is a shortage of good accommodation at the moment. It is not simply a matter of putting something in place, unless there is a destination that is suitable for the person. We also need to get that through the pipeline and we are working very quickly to get that happening.