

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 SQ16-000048

Topic: Young people in residential aged care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert, asked:

A project funded by the NDIA to connect young people in aged care into the NDIS has reportedly found that 98% of the young people in aged care it has worked with are eligible for the NDIS. Will the NDIA and Department consider making being in aged care a listed program where these young people would be assumed to have a disability (as occurs for BetterStart and Australian Disability Enterprises) rather than making young people in aged care prove their disability?

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) is planning to bring in more than 400,000 people over the next three years. Options for streamlining the time required for access decision making have to bring people into the scheme as quickly as possible with minimal disruption to their lives.

Many Commonwealth, state and territory programs have eligibility criteria that are closely aligned with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) disability or early intervention criteria. The Agency has developed operational processes whereby the Agency can decide that these programs can be accepted as 'Defined Programs' so that people receiving supports under these programs can transition to the NDIS without a requirement to provide evidence of their disability. This approach has been successfully used in the trial sites and is being used for early decision making in transition.

To ensure that the scheme remains sustainable this process must be balanced to ensure that people who do not meet the disability requirements are not inadvertently granted access. This has meant that the Agency will only approve a program as a 'Defined Program' if all people in that program would meet the disability requirements for access. This is not the case for aged care programs as many people are currently living in Aged Care due to their medical needs, or a chronic health condition and would not meet these disability requirements.

Young people in residential aged care will enter the NDIS in line with the bilateral phasing agreements. The Agency is working closely with the Department of Health (DoH) to develop communication material and fact sheets to inform the young people in residential aged care and the sector of the transition arrangements and to ensure data provision.

Whilst young people in aged care is not a 'Defined Program' the Agency does have a streamlined process for bringing in individuals. It is taking a pragmatic approach to determining access for people not currently in defined programs.