

QUESTION ANSWERED

QUESTION ON NOTICE – Inquiry into the implementation of the NDIS and the provision of disability services in NSW – 17 September 2018 Hearing

NDIS TRANSITIONAL LEADS IN NSW HEALTH

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I come back to the specific positions that you referred to, are they the transitional leads?

Ms KOFF: Yes, that is right.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: And the Mental Health Champions?

Ms KOFF: Yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How long have those positions been in place for?

ANSWER

- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Transition Leads were established in the NSW NDIS trial sites:
 - Hunter New England since 2013
 - Nepean Blue Mountains since 2015.
- NSW Health established NDIS Transition Leads in all remaining Local Health Districts (LHDs) and Speciality Health Networks (SHNs) by December 2015, in anticipation of the NDIS roll-out across the state.
- Similarly each LHD had a Mental Health NDIS Champion in place by July 2016. The first Mental Health NDIS Champion Network meeting was held on 12 July 2016.

QUESTION ANSWERED

QUESTION ON NOTICE – Inquiry into the implementation of the NDIS and the provision of disability services in NSW – 17 September 2018 Hearing

NSW MINISTRY OF HEALTH NDIS LEAD

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Is there a position within NSW Health, not within the local health districts, that is designed to be interacting with the NDIS on a case management system?

Ms KOFF: Yes. Within the government relations department the executive director is the main interface and there is a core team that deals with the issues. It would be fair to say also that Department of Premier and Cabinet [DPC] has been assisting us in having discussions with the National Disability Insurance Agency [NDIA] and the application of the applied principles for criteria for entry into the NDIS.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Can you tell me the title of that position with the government relations department?

Ms KOFF: The Executive Director of Government Relations Ms Jacqueline Ball is the lead for the NDIS within the ministry and her staff members, the team, sits below that position.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Is that a new or existing position?

Ms KOFF: No. Because of the importance of getting the implementation of the NDIS right, we created a special team within government relations branch to assist in the delivery of that and there is a guidance committee that does have clinical representatives on it also.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: When was that established?

ANSWER

- The Executive Director, Government Relations Branch is the lead for the NDIS within the NSW Ministry of Health.
- The NSW Health NDIS Working Group was established in 2014 to plan and coordinate NSW Health's transition during the pilot and subsequent rollout to full scheme NDIS.
- A new NDIS Project Management Office (PMO) in the Government Relations Branch became fully operational in August 2016. This team is now called the Social Policy Implementation Unit.

QUESTION ANSWERED

QUESTION ON NOTICE – Inquiry into the implementation of the NDIS and the provision of disability services in NSW – 17 September 2018 Hearing

DISABILITY FOCUSSED POSITIONS IN NSW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I understand that there are new positions that have been advertised for new roles within NSW Health and the Department of Justice, amongst others, which are designed to have this case management role since the effective abolition of the Department of Disability Services in New South Wales. Perhaps this is a question for Mr Reardon: Why was the decision taken to put them within existing departments rather than instead to retain a role for the Department of Disability Services?

ANSWER

- All NSW Government agencies have responsibility for ensuring services provided are inclusive and accessible for people with disability, as per the obligations under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*.
- The NDIS and cessation of specialist disability services through Ageing, Disability and Home Care has provided the opportunity for other mainstream services in NSW to further build capacity and ability to better meet the needs of people with disability.
- Centralised functions specifically focussing on broader systemic policy issues are currently present within the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). The NDIS Reform Group within DPC was established in 2016 to support the implementation of the NDIS, which includes managing cross-government governance and policy considerations.

QUESTION ANSWERED

QUESTION ON NOTICE – Inquiry into the implementation of the NDIS and the provision of disability services in NSW – 17 September 2018 Hearing

YOUNG PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: That seems to imply there are 312 young people under the age of 65 in nursing homes who are not eligible for the NDIS, is that correct?

Mr COUTTS-TROTTER: My assumption about that was that they are not yet participants. I also noticed the discrepancy in those two figures so we are seeking some advice on that, but if you are in a nursing home as a result of your disability I think there is no way known you are not going to be eligible for NDIS support.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: That is right. I am happy for you to take this question on notice but what is the NSW Government doing to ensure that those people do have access to the NDIS as a matter of urgency?

ANSWER

- The figure referred to at the Budget Estimates hearing is from the Commonwealth Government, and is referenced in the Bilateral Agreement for Transition to the NDIS, which is publically available.
- The figure referred to in the NDIA's submission to the Inquiry refers to Young People in Residential Aged Care who are participants of the NDIS.
- The NDIA is working to identify and assist those yet to access the Scheme.