



NSW Legislative Council

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health and Community Services
Answer to Question on Notice

Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Provision of
Disability Services in New South Wales

Reference No: SQ18-000213

YOUNG PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE NUMBERS

Hearing: 17 September 2018

Hansard Page: 15-16

Question:

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I think you heard my last question to the New South Wales Government about the discrepancy between your submission, which talks about 1,888 young people in nursing homes in New South Wales who are currently accessing the NDIS, and questioning in budget estimates a couple of weeks ago here revealed that there are 2,200 young people in nursing homes in New South Wales. That implies that there are 312 young people in nursing homes in New South Wales who are not currently accessing the NDIS, is that correct?

Ms GUNN: I cannot confirm the statistics. I am very happy to look at that for you but I imagine the difference is a combination of those individuals that we have not yet been able to access, have chosen to delay a conversation with us, or some individuals who may not be eligible for the scheme if they are in those nursing home facilities, as we saw with palliative care, for example. We would be very happy to have a look at the statistics for you.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: You can provide on notice what is happening?

Ms GUNN: We can identify where the 300-odd that you are talking about are and what their status is, yes.

Mr McNAUGHTON: The only thing I add to Ms Gunn's response is, we have dedicated teams within our regions who are out there managing, they are more highly skilled planners. We go out to the settings, work with the potential participant, the family, the aged-care facility, do all the planning face-to-face with all those parties involved. It does take a little bit longer. We are not doing any of the access decisions over the telephone, we go and visit each of those settings personally and do a lot of work with them one on one, but we will have to get you the rest of the numbers. I just did a quick check, it is 1,888 who are eligible so far with a plan. The gap would be how many we are still working through that process.

[...]

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: This implies that there are 312 who do not have an NDIS plan. Obviously I am concerned about young people in nursing homes, but I am even more concerned that there are young people in them who do not have a plan.

Ms RUNDLE: We are working through them. We will confirm the numbers. We are committed to getting them their plans.

Answer:

The following data represents young people in residential aged care in the NDIS at 30 June 2018 in NSW.

Access met decisions made	2,058
Exits from the Scheme	170*
Current participants living in Residential Aged care	1,888
Active participants with an approved plan	1750
Participants deemed eligible but yet to receive a plan	138

* The two factors driving exits from the NDIS are:

- participant is deceased; or
- participant elects to revoke access for any reason.



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Reference No: SQ18-000214

APRIL 2018 ILC FUNDING ROUND

Hearing: 17 September 2018

Hansard Page: 16

Question:

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Great. I refer to Linkages and Capacity Building [ILC] funding, which you refer to in your submission. I am happy for you to take this question on notice. Can you provide a list of the groups and programs funded in the April 2018 round? I think you said there were 55.

Ms RUNDLE: We will need to take that question notice, but we can provide that information.

Answer:

On 30 April 2018, the Commonwealth Government announced \$56 million in grant funding through the National Readiness Grant Round 2 and Jurisdictional Based Grants (Round 2) to projects that help make Australia more inclusive for people with disability. The Jurisdictional Based Grants included 55 grants for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) projects in NSW, representing an investment of \$18.7 million in ILC activities for the people of NSW. These grants are a mix of 1 and 2 year projects.

Successful ILC grants are published on the NDIS website at: www.ndis.gov.au.



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Reference No: SQ18-000215

PREVIOUS ILC FUNDING ROUNDS

Hearing: 17 September 2018

Hansard Page: 16-17

Question:

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Was there a funding round before the April 2018 round?

Ms RUNDLE: I have the ILC funding only for 2018-19.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I am happy for you to take that question on notice. Have there been previous funding rounds?

Ms RUNDLE: There have

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Who was funded?

Ms RUNDLE: Can I take that question on notice?

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Yes, that would be great.

Ms RUNDLE: That information is publicly available on our website; there is a list of who receives funding and the amount. However, we are very happy to put together a table.

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) ran the inaugural Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) funding rounds in early 2017. The first grant round was for the implementation of ILC in the Australian Capital Territory from 1 July 2017. This round resulted in 22 grants worth \$2.99 million.

The subsequent grant round was an ILC National Readiness Grant Round, which focused on the ILC Policy Activity Areas of community awareness and capacity building and capacity building for mainstream services. This round resulted in 39 grants worth \$14.09 million, which includes a mix of NSW based, national and multi-jurisdictional grants. Details of the funded projects are available on the NDIS website at: www.ndis.gov.au.

Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Provision of
Disability Services in New South Wales

Reference No: SQ18-000216

PLAN REVIEWS IN NSW

Hearing: 17 September 2018

Hansard Page: 18

Question:

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How many plans are undertaken in New South Wales for people who have not had a change of circumstances and who have not requested a review of their plan? I am happy for you to take this question on notice. How many plans in New South Wales have been reviewed within 12 months? I am interested in those instigated by the NDIA.

Ms FAULKNER: I will have to take that question on notice.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I appreciate that I am asking a lot of specific questions. Of those, how many related to children and how many subsequently received a lower level of support or no support at all from the NDIA?

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: If you want to provide anything else to the Committee about that, I am sure that would be useful.

Answer:

- 1) During the 2017-18 financial year in NSW there were 54,042 plan reviews¹.
- 2) The data tables below show the percentage of plans in NSW for the 2017-18 financial year (as at 30 June 2018) which have increased by more than 10 per cent, decreased by more than 10 per cent or changed by less than 10 per cent at review².

Table 1: NSW plan value change at review (30 June 2018) – all plans

More than 10% decrease	Within 10% change	More than 10% increase	Total
17,197	14,398	22,447	54,042
32%	27%	42%	100%

¹ Note than plan reviews data excludes short plans (less than 31 days) and participants with \$0 plans

² Ibid

Table 2: NSW plan value change at review (30 June 2018) – 0 to 14 year olds

Age Group	More than 10% decrease	Within 10% change	More than 10% increase	Total
0 to 14	6,612 42%	3,966 25%	4,997 32%	15,575 100%

There are many reasons why a plan value may decrease from one plan to the next. The most common reason being capital costs which are funded in one plan and not required in the subsequent plan. There may also be a reduction in the value of capacity building supports which are no longer required, as the participant has increased their level of independence, hence requiring fewer funded supports.



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Reference No: SQ18-000217

PLAN REVIEW WAIT TIMES

Hearing: 17 September 2018

Hansard Page: 18-19

Question:

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I have one last question. How long, on average, if someone requests a review as a result of an error or an inadequacy in their plan, do they have to wait to receive that review?

Ms FAULKNER: If it is a change of circumstances and a request of an unscheduled review, we have a timeframe to make a decision for that review to be carried out. That is 28 days or 14 days. I may be corrected.

Ms RUNDLE: We may need to come back.

Ms FAULKNER: Thank you. I have been advised that it is 28 days. If we choose not to continue with that review, participants should be notified to that effect. We do recognise that we have a large backlog of review requests at the moment. Part of that has been addressed with a dedicated team to work through those review requests. We see that decreasing—I can provide the numbers after this—to bring those numbers down. We are seeing great gains. We do recognise that we have had review requests that have not been addressed for a length of time, and longer than we would be satisfied with.

Answer:

Under section 48 of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* a participant can request a review of their plan at any time. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) must decide whether or not to conduct the review within 14 days of receiving the request. If the NDIA fails to make a decision within that period of time, it is taken that the NDIA has decided not to conduct the review.

If the NDIA decides to conduct the review, the review must be initiated within 14 days after the said decision is made. The review must be completed as soon as reasonably practicable.



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Reference No: SQ18-000218

NDIS PLANNERS

Hearing: 17 September 2018

Hansard Page: 20

Question:

Ms DAWN WALKER: Expanding on the staffing, how many NDIS planners are employed in New South Wales?

Ms RUNDLE: We really need to take that on notice. I am sorry, we do not have that with us.

Ms DAWN WALKER: That is fine. Could you outline the skills and experience and training that is required by the local area coordinators and the planners.

Answer:

As at 31 August 2018 there were 470 planners in New South Wales.

Planners come from various backgrounds including:

- Disability support
- Allied health
- Customer service
- Contact centres (reading, interpreting and applying legislation), and
- State, Territory and Commonwealth government agencies.

Training for Planners includes:

- Induction training for 6 weeks including:
 - face-to-face
 - online
 - on-the-job
 - self-directed and leader-led, and
 - culminating in a range of skill verification activities
- Empathy training
- Disability awareness training, and
- Disability specific training.