

Question on Notice

No. 558

Asked on 20 August 2013

Dr Douglas asked the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Ms DAVIS) —

QUESTION

With reference to disability services – Will the Minister advise why clients in my electorate are being placed on a register of need when they have been clearly identified by disability services as needing increased hours to live in their homes but are being told there is no funding to cover these services?

ANSWER

The statewide Register of Need is designed to support the fair and transparent allocation of services to people with a disability who are in greatest need.

Individuals need to have undergone a functional needs assessment in order to have their needs recorded on the Register of Need. If the needs have increased and a higher level of support is required, the individual must be re-assessed to ensure this is reflected on the Register of Need. There is a prioritisation process which takes into account an individual's personal circumstances, the length of time they have been waiting for a service and the best fit for the service. Individuals are offered funded support as a result of this prioritisation process.

It must be noted that having a needs assessment does not equate with provision of support. It is acknowledged that the disability sector is currently unable to accommodate the demand of unmet need in Queensland. The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services provides direct specialist disability support and also funds local non-government service providers to provide a range of services including community access, in-home accommodation support, respite and group home support, therapy services, and mobile attendant care.

On 8 May 2013, the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier signed a historic agreement with the Australian Government to roll out DisabilityCare Australia, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland.

This agreement will transform the way that disability services and supports will be available to Queenslanders with a disability and their families and carers. From 2019–20, the Queensland Government will contribute over \$2 billion to the NDIS. State funding for specialist disability services has increased to almost \$990 million in 2013–14.

Further information is available at www.qld.gov.au/disability and www.disabilitycareaustralia.gov.au.