

Question on Notice

No. 103

Asked on Wednesday 14 February 2019

DR C ROWAN ASKED MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND SENIORS (HON C O'ROURKE)

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)—Will the Minister advise since 1 July 2017, how many departmental staff have (a) been seconded to the NDIA, (b) transferred to other Queensland government agencies or departments, and (c) left employment with the department without secondment or transfer, as a direct result of the transition (reported separately by financial year)?

ANSWER

The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors has implemented a number of processes to assist NDIS impacted staff whose skills are no longer required to find alternative employment opportunities in the Queensland public sector and National Disability Insurance Agency.

Permanent employees have employment security. There have been no forced redundancies.

Staff that wish to remain working in the public service are being individually supported and assisted in planning their future and finding alternative jobs.

Impacted staff remaining until the transition to the NDIS continue to be meaningfully employed, either in the department supporting people with disability or elsewhere in the public service.

Unfortunately Queensland Government had to push to ensure Local Area Coordinators (LAC) were on the ground but despite this the NDIA only put in place one LAC organisation on schedule.

As a result of the delay by the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government offered to step in and help with the secondment of staff in Cairns, Brisbane and Robina to support access and/or pre-planning.

These Queensland officers assisted potential participants to access the NDIS. In 2017-18 there were 34 staff seconded to the NDIA and in 2018-19 there were 41. In total over the whole period of transition there have been 118 staff seconded to the NDIA.

As at 28 February 2019, 409 staff of the 415 staff who commenced transition in Years 1 and 2 in North Queensland and South West regions, Bundaberg and Rockhampton, have been placed in their preferred pathways.

All Central Business areas as well as Brisbane, South East and Far North Queensland regions and Maryborough commenced their transition to the NDIS from 1 July 2018 with North Coast region commencing transition from 1 January 2019.

During 2017-18 22 staff were placed in other Queensland Government agencies or departments and for 2018-19 this figure is 111.