

Question on Notice

No. 448

Asked on 20 April 2023

MR J LANGBROEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND DISABILITY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON C CRAWFORD)

QUESTION

With reference to the Queensland Government's annual investment of over \$2b in the National Disability Insurance Scheme—

Will the Minister advise what measures are being used to determine value for money and outcomes for Queenslanders with disability?

ANSWER

As a shareholder of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), it is critical Queensland's investment in the scheme maximises value for Queensland and outcomes for Queenslanders with disability.

In 2022–23, Queensland invested over \$2.3 billion in the NDIS to help Queensland participants receive supports and services to assist with education, employment, social participation, independence, living arrangements and health and wellbeing. The NDIS is also providing an extraordinary benefit to our economy through job creation, skills development, and increased workforce participation, particularly in our regional and rural areas. Over 120,000 Queenslanders now have access to the NDIS with more than 77,000 Queenslanders receiving disability supports for the first time.

To help realise the full benefits of Queensland's NDIS investment, Queensland negotiated for additional Commonwealth funding through the negotiation of the *Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland on the National Disability Insurance Scheme* for specialist programs to support people to access the NDIS. With this funding, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (the department) established the Assessment and Referral Team (ART) program. ART has assisted more than 3100 Queenslanders to access the NDIS, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants and participants from regional, rural and remote areas. Almost half of these individuals had previously attempted to access the NDIS without success. Plan values for these participants total over \$400 million.

While the Commonwealth funding has expired, the Queensland Government has continued to invest in ART to support Queenslanders to access the NDIS, with a particular focus on supporting at-risk children and young people aged 7 to 25 years with a commitment of \$5.7 million in 2022–23.

The National Disability Insurance Agency provides quarterly reports to Disability Reform Ministers, which set out performance measures including plan utilisation, market concentration, participant satisfaction and employment. These are monitored through the department.

While the NDIS has improved the lives of many thousands of people, we know not everyone has had a positive experience and the NDIS is not working as well as it should be. That is why the Queensland Government, along with the other State and Territory Governments, agreed to the terms of reference for an independent review of the NDIS, which is undertaking a wide-ranging inquiry into all aspects of the NDIS, including participant experience of the scheme, the outcomes it is achieving, and its financial sustainability.