

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Disability, Ageing and Carers
Witness:	Minister Donnellan
Committee member:	Mr Riordan – requested the information
Page/s of transcript:	Not Applicable

### Relevant text

1. BP3, p. 227 refers to delivering on the State Disability Plan. One of the key components of this Plan is suitable housing. Page 21 of the plan makes note of the importance of people with a disability having housing choices that are suitable. In Victoria we have over 1500 younger people (under 65) with disability are forced to live in nursing homes as there is nowhere else for them to stay, which all agree is totally inappropriate for obvious reasons. Minister, can you advise what specific programs in your Disability Budget are focussed on getting younger people with special needs out of inappropriate nursing homes?

### Answer

The Victorian Government is contributing \$2.5 billion to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in 2019-20.

The NDIS has changed the way disability services are funded by giving people with disability more choice and control over what they need. The NDIS provides Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) funding to eligible participants, including young people in nursing homes who seek more appropriate housing options. An estimated 6,300 Victorians will require Specialist Disability Accommodation funding from the NDIS.

The market for the supply of Specialist Disability Accommodation is still emerging even as the scheme approaches full implementation. The Andrews Labor Government has been advocating strongly for the Federal Government and National Disability Insurance Agency to increase its focus on SDA due to concerns from the disability sector and property industry regarding availability of information to support investment.

In February 2019, the Specialist Disability Accommodation Pricing and Payments Framework was released. The framework is expected to stimulate growth further by offering increased certainty to investors.

Through the Council of Australian Government's Disability Reform Council, the Victorian Government will continue to advocate for better housing outcomes from the NDIS for Victorians with disability.

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2. BP3, p. 200 states your output group leads and coordinates whole-of-government policy on issues affecting the ageing community. Given that a major issue affecting the ageing community is retirement housing, what work, if any, will your department be doing to assist seniors with retirement housing issues?
3. In 2017, the Andrews Labor Government’s response to the Inquiry into the Retirement Housing Sector said Recommendation 15 – a new ombudsman to deal with retirement housing disputes – was ‘under review’. Is your department involved in this review, and if so, when will it be completed?
4. Why don’t you just adopt the Liberal Nationals’ policy for a Retirement Housing Ombudsman, a policy that is well supported by consumer advocates? Minister, you share responsibility for administering the Residential Tenancies Act 1997, along with the Minister for Consumer Affairs, will you even consider the idea of a Retirement Housing Ombudsman to assist Seniors?

### Answer

The lead Minister for Retirement Housing is Minister for Consumer Affairs, the Hon. Marlene Kairouz. The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) is engaged with Consumer Affairs Victoria on this issue.

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5. I refer to BP3, p. 227 which refers to delivering on the State Disability Plan 2017-20. One of the key components of this Plan is increasing disability employment levels. One of four key areas listed on p. 53 of the plan is social enterprises and page 54 refers to the importance of building and growing social enterprises. What we do know is one of the biggest impediments to social enterprises are start-up costs. Recent budgets have been devoid of any specific funding programs to assist in this area and grow social enterprises, so Minister can you point to any programs in this budget that are specifically aimed at growing social enterprises in line with your State Disability Plan?

### Answer

The Victorian Government has invested \$10.8 million from 2016-17 through to 2020-21 in the Social Enterprise Strategy to create new jobs and increase opportunities for disadvantaged Victorians, including people with disability. Through the Strategy, the Victorian Government is supporting social enterprises via a range of initiatives including:

- the Victorian Social Procurement Framework that came into effect on 1 September 2018, and increases the opportunity for social enterprises to bid for and win government procurement contracts as well as promoting the use of Australian Disability Enterprises and opportunities for people with disability
- 51 projects under the Boost Your Business – Social Enterprise Capability Voucher Program that aim to develop the capability of social enterprises from inception through to investment readiness, and a new voucher stream for Entrepreneurs with Disability which was launched in 2019
- an online map of social enterprises across metropolitan and regional Victoria at <https://mapforimpact.com.au/>
- a database of Victorian social enterprises and intermediaries.

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6. BP3, p. 80 refers to delivering on the State Disability Plan 2017-20. One of the key components of the key priorities is Public transport. Page 24 of the Plan states the government will improve access to public transport options in rural and regional Victoria and specifically states it will do this by upgrading bus and coach stops with disability access. Minister can you outline how this 'key priority' of your plan is progressing in relation to how many bus stops have been upgraded as there appears many areas where this has not occurred?
- a. Can you please provide a list of how many bus stops have been upgraded in each local government area and how many remain to be upgraded?

**Answer**

*N.B. this question was redirected formally by the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Secretariat on 28 June 2019 to The Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Public Transport.*