

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 228

Topic: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

What is the current status of funding for The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children? What specific programs are currently being pursued in The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children?

Answer:

Following the Council of Australian Governments' endorsement of the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*, the Commonwealth Government announced it would invest \$63 million over four years to support the National Framework and improve the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children. Some of the work being progressed under the National Framework funding includes:

- **Communities for Children Plus** provides intensive, targeted and coordinated support for children at risk in eight disadvantaged communities, to improve child safety and family functioning.
- **Building Capacity Building Bridges** project, an accredited training program developed to build workforce capacity to intervene early with families and lower the risk of abuse and neglect.
- **Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support tool** was developed by an expert taskforce and will be trialled to assess the needs of vulnerable children and their families in four communities across Australia.
- **National Standards for Out of Home Care** agreed to by all jurisdictions on 16 December 2010 and will begin from 1 July 2011.
- **Special Child Care Benefit** arrangements were improved to enhance access to quality childcare for children at risk.
- **New information sharing processes** between Commonwealth agencies, including Centrelink, Medicare and the Child Support Agency, and state and territory child protection agencies.
- **Transition to Independence Living Allowance** was increased on 1 July 2009 for young people leaving care, from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

In addition, 51 Indigenous Parenting Support Services, and 8 new Kids in Focus – Family Drug Support services, are being delivered under the National Framework.