

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW 1124_09

Senator **Payne** asked on **25 February 2009**, EEWWR Hansard page 53

Question

Early Learning and Care Centres – Autism Specific Sites

What is the status of the six Autism – specific new early learning and care services, in particular the location and status of the agreement process?

Answer

On 15 July 2008, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, approved the following locations for the six Autism-specific centres: North-west Tasmania, South-west Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has responsibility for the delivery of these six centres.

On Thursday, 2 April 2009, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services and the Hon Maxine McKew MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, jointly announced the first round of successful applicants for the Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres in Melbourne, Adelaide and South Western Sydney.

Further information is available from the FaHCSIA website www.fahcsia.gov.au/autism