

Answers to questions on notice: The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)

Question 1

Hansard page reference: p. 37.

Senator GRIFF: *In your submission you refer to correspondence with the minister for social services in 2018, where you recommended the establishment of a clinical reference group to guide the implementation of the national guidelines. What was the response to that correspondence?*

Answer: The RACP received a response from the Minister for Social Services. Mr Paul Fletcher, on 13 February 2019. The response acknowledged the RACP's expertise in the area, and noted that the Government would work closely with stakeholders to determine how the Guideline could be best implemented across the areas of health, social services and education. The RACP is not aware of any further stakeholder consultation on the implementation of the Guidelines.

Question 2

Hansard page reference: p. 39.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: *Thank you, Senator Hughes. Just one final question from me. Are you aware of any support or connection between the medical community and the early childhood community—particularly early childhood educators—in recognising the early signs of autism? Is there support specifically provided either through the Early Years Learning Framework or the NQS which acquits these services to pick up signs which might require a diagnostic investigation?*

RACP response: The RACP does not have a role in the Early Years Learning Framework or the NQS. As Dr Small noted in her verbal evidence, paediatricians often interact with early childhood education services where there are concerns about children.