

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 73

Topic: Helping Children with Autism Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the current status of the Helping Children with Autism program?

Answer:

The Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package is in its third year of implementation.

As at 28 February 2011:

- Autism Advisors have registered 13,281 children for Early Intervention funding
- 113 PlayConnect Playgroups have opened
- over 2,500 people have been assisted through Early Days Workshops
- the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) component of the Raising Children Network website continues to receive over 5,000 views per month.

In addition to the HCWA package, funding was also provided for six Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centres. Each of the centres is currently providing at least 20 long day care places for children with an ASD.