

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: 81

Topic: Unmet need - disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

How does the Department make policy decisions, establish policy priorities, design programs or make funding decisions in the area of disabilities if it does not know what the level of need is?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has access to a number of sources of information which inform policy development. These include:

- data and reports from bodies such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, including the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, for the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers;
- contracted and commissioned research undertaken on behalf on FaHCSIA including from the Social Policy Research Centre;
- modelling on disability including the National Need and Supply Model, being progressed under the National Disability Agreement, and the Access Economic Model; and
- advisory bodies and groups such as the National People with Disability and Carer Council and the Independent Panel, which acts in an advisory capacity to government during the Productivity Commission Inquiry into long-term care and support for Australians with disability.