

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: 89

Topic: Changes to Eligibility for Carers Allowance for Parents of Children with Type 1 Diabetes over the age of 10

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

These questions are directed to FaHCSIA, Human Services and Centrelink, where relevant.

Since July 2010, how has the eligibility criteria changed – either through medical reports or through Centrelink – in relation to Carers Allowance for carers of children with Type 1 Diabetes?

Answer:

Carer Allowance (child) is an income supplement which is not taxable or income and assets tested. It is available to people who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person with disability or severe medical conditions. Carer Allowance can be paid in addition to a social security income support payment.

There has been no change to eligibility for Carer Allowance (child) since July 2010. The List of Recognised Disabilities (the List) remains the first test for qualification for Carer Allowance (child). Diabetes Mellitus Type 1 for children under the age of 10 was added to the List in 2006.

From 1 July 2010, the Disability Care Load Assessment (DCLA) has been used to assess qualification for the child stream of Carer Allowance where the child's condition is not on the List. The previous assessment tool only considered the functional ability of the child in comparison to a child of the same age without a disability or medical condition, whereas the DCLA considers the level of care required and the care provided by the carer.

The use of the DCLA applies to all applications for Carer Allowance and is not specifically directed at carers of children with Diabetes Mellitus Type 1.