

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 150

Topic: Better Start for Children with Disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

Are there any plans to extend the Better Start program to other disabilities, such as muscular dystrophy?

If not, are there any plans to set up a similar program?

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has sought expert advice about evidence for early intervention in relation to other types of childhood disability and developmental delay, including an analysis of current research. The review was undertaken by KPMG.

The review, which was released on 20 December 2011, can be accessed at:
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/early_intervention_review/Pages/default.aspx

The recommendations in the KPMG review, including the recommendation to extend Better Start, are currently being considered by Government.