

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 493

Topic: Autism and Early Intervention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

In 2005 the Commonwealth Government funded a detailed evidence based review of Best Practice for early intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder. How many Australian children with an autistic disorder are part of an early-childhood program that meets these guidelines?

Answer:

In July 2006, *Autism A review of the Research to Identify the Most Effective Models of Practice in Early Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders* was undertaken by Professor Jacqueline Roberts, University of Sydney and Professor Margot Pryor, University of Melbourne.

The Review was commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and is available at www.health.gov.au.

Early Childhood programs incorporate a wide range of state/federal education and health services. The Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) Package provides a contribution to families of children up to seven years of age with Autism Spectrum Disorder to access early intervention services and support.

Over 21,000 eligible children have registered for the HCWA package since its commencement in 2008.