

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: 498

Topic: Autism and Early Intervention

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

I have figures that suggest that in the AEIOU centres, 75 per cent of children will be able to attend mainstream schools after completing the 2-year program. Further, estimates indicate that for every two years of early intervention a child with autism receives, there is a community cost saving of \$600,000.

Has the Government considered implementing any minimum national standards for the support and inclusion of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in schools? "

Answer:

The Helping Children with Autism package (HCWA) aims to help children realise their potential. It has a particular focus on transition to education.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is delivering the education element of the HCWA Package known as Positive Partnerships: supporting school-aged students on the autism spectrum, which aims to foster positive partnerships between schools and families to improve the educational outcomes of students with ASD. The initiative provides:

- Professional development for teachers and other school staff to support school students with Autism Spectrum Disorders to achieve better educational outcomes; and
- Workshops and information sessions for parents and carers to assist them to work with their child's teachers, school leaders and other staff.