

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 5**

**Question No: 144**

**Topic:** Autism specific early learning centres

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Fifield** asked:

Has the Department been asked to develop and/or cost any such proposals?

**Answer:**

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has received three requests to fund Autism Specific child care centres.

Proposals for a centre in Tasmania and Queanbeyan were received in May and February this year. Neither proposal was funded.

A proposal from AEIOU to establish a new child care centre at the University of Queensland's Sippy Downs campus was received in May this year, and the Department is providing \$1.8 million in capital funding. The AEIOU centre will offer up to 25 places for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder or Pervasive Developmental Delay.