

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 224

Topic: Siblings of Children and Adults with Disability and Chronic Illness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator: Wright

What is FaHCSIA doing to support siblings of children and adults with disability and chronic illness?

Answer:

There are a number of areas where FaHCSIA is working systematically with state and territory and other Commonwealth agencies to provide support to people with disability, their families (including siblings) and carers through a range of activities, including:

- The National Disability Agreement (the Agreement) commenced on 1 January 2009 and provides the framework for the provision of government support for people with disability. From 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2015, the Commonwealth Government will be providing around \$7.6 billion in funding to the state and territory governments for increased and improved specialist disability services such as supported accommodation, targeted support and respite.

The Agreement means that in 2014-2015, the Commonwealth Government's contribution will be around \$1.4 billion, compared to \$620 million in 2006-07.

- The Australian Government has made good progress in the early design and development of a National Disability Insurance Scheme since the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, released the Productivity Commission's final report into care and support for people with disability on 10 August 2011.
- All governments have agreed to lay the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme by mid-2013 – a year ahead of the timetable set out by the Productivity Commission.
- On 3 December 2011, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of a dedicated agency to guide the development of a National Disability Insurance Scheme. This agency will lead the detailed design work for the launch of a scheme and will develop the practical plan for how we deliver this significant reform. This will be supported with an additional \$10 million for projects to examine how the design elements of a scheme will work in practice.

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- In March 2010, the Australian Government launched the National Disability Strategy which sets a 10 year reform plan for all governments to address the barriers faced by Australians with disability and ensures that mainstream services and programs including healthcare, housing, transport and education, address the needs of people with disability.
- The Australian Government is also providing \$1.6 million through the National Carer Strategy to fund a national campaign to raise public awareness of the role of carers and encourage people with caring responsibilities to seek assistance and support. This may assist siblings who provide personal care, support and assistance to a family member with disability or chronic illness but who do not identify themselves as carers.