

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: 266

Topic: Better Start for Children with Disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

With reference to the Better Start for Children with a Disability initiative:

- a) What is the current number of children registered under the Better Start program?
- b) What is the total expenditure to date under this program?
- c) Can the Department provide a breakdown of departmental and administered expenditure for this program over the forward estimates?
- d) How many complaints, in total, has the Department or Minister's office received regarding the Better Start initiative?
- e) How many one off tax exempt payments of \$2,000 have been paid out under the Better Start initiative to date?

Answer:

- a) As at 31 October 2011, 2,243 children were registered under the Better Start program.
- b) The total expenditure to 31 October 2011 under the Better Start program was \$2,691,111.
- c) As detailed in FaHCSIA's 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statements the breakdown of departmental and administered expenditure over the forward estimates:

	<u>Departmental</u>	<u>Administered</u>
2011/12	\$872,000	\$35,662,250
2012/13	\$646,000	\$34,138,750
2013/14	\$288,000	\$31,512,250
2014/15	\$288,000	\$15,756,000

- d) Between the commencement of Better Start on 1 July 2011 and 31 October 2011, the Department and Minister's office received 68 complaints in total, regarding the initiative.
- e) As at 31 October 2011, 172 one off tax exempt payments of \$2,000 have been paid out under the Better Start initiative.