

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

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 157

Topic: Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Hansard Page: 19/10/2012 - CA43

Senator Scullion asked:

Is there some current consideration being done in relation to placing foetal alcohol spectrum disorder as a registered disability in Australia?

Answer:

There is no single list of recognised disabilities that automatically grants access to the range of financial assistance or services available to people with disability or their carers.

Access to specialist disability services and income support is based on a functional assessment rather than the diagnosis of a disability.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, as with other spectrum disorders, manifests in a broad variety of ways. Some people may be only moderately affected while others may be severely affected.

Depending on the severity of the disabilities arising from the condition, people with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder who are over age 16 may qualify for Disability Support Pension and their carers may qualify for Carer Allowance and/or Carer Payment.

Specialist disability support for people with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and their carers, is also available through a range of state and territory government services under the National Disability Agreement.