

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

**Outcome Number:** 5

**Question No:** 76

**Topic:** Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) Package

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

How has this program been promoted? What information is available?

**Answer:**

The Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) Package is promoted in a variety of ways:

- On the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) website, the Package is promoted as a *Popular Topics* option on the home page. Multiple web pages provide details about what support is available under the Package, how families can access funding, which service providers are on the Early Intervention Provider Panel and how to get more information.
- By Autism Advisor Services, in each State and Territory. These provide families and carers with support and information about the various components of the Package. Autism Advisors also provide fact sheets and newsletters to participating families, as well as pamphlets to general practitioners, local councils, paediatricians, hospitals, and Community Centres. They attend parent/carer events and participate in interagency activities and meetings with multicultural and Indigenous organisations.
- Through the Raising Children Network – a website for parents and carers. Early Days Workshops, PlayConnect Playgroups and Positive Partnerships also have their own brochures in English and some are in languages other than English.
- FaHCSIA also produces factsheets and participates in disability forums, conferences and expos where information products are distributed. Media releases have also been an avenue for promoting the Package.