

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: 112

Topic: Dyslexia Working Party

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

When will the Government be responding to this report?

Why is it taking so long for the Government to respond to this report?

Isn't this yet another example of your Government commissioning work on an issue and then not following through?

Answer:

The Working Party on Dyslexia submitted its report to the former Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, the Hon Bill Shorten, in January last year. The report - *Helping people with dyslexia: a national agenda* - makes 19 recommendations to Government for assisting people with dyslexia. The recommendations focus on:

- defining and recognising dyslexia as a disability;
- schools and teachers;
- assessment of dyslexia;
- appropriate support and accommodation;
- community awareness;
- employment and training; and
- dyslexia research funding.

Relevant government departments, which include the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations, the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, have been considering these recommendations and are currently working on a response to the report for consideration by Government.