

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 158

Topic: After School Hours Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

In terms of unmet need the after school care program is poorly funded and resources servicing a miniscule number of families. What is the Department's explanation for that?

If it has a low priority could the Department explain its reasoning for that?

Considering the overwhelming unmet need for such services what are people, who have no services to access, meant to do about that? Are there alternatives?

Answer:

The service delivery model for the program adopts a multi-sectorial approach that includes child care, disability services, health services and the education sector. Broader responsibility for some of those sectors lies with state and territory governments. The program was originally introduced as a small ancillary program to support the states and territories, not to address the full unmet need.

Through work towards an NDIS, the Commonwealth will work with the states and territories to develop opportunities to strengthen and enhance services for people with disability including teenagers who require outside school hour care and activities.