

**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: 173**

**Topic:** Helping Children with Autism Programme

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Fifield** asked:

Can figures please be provided for:

- a) Total Helping Children with Autism registrations since the programme commenced;
- b) The number of those registrations that occurred after 1 July 2011;
- c) The number of applications for assessment and registration currently pending;
- d) A breakdown of registrations by residence (State or Territory);
- e) A breakdown of registrations by locality (urban, regional, rural)
- f) The number of services provided through the related Medicare items in 2010-11 and so far in 2011-12.

**Answer:**

Can figures please be provided for:

- a) Total Helping Children with Autism registrations since the programme commenced;
  - 18,785 children were registered from October 2008 to 31 January 2012.
- b) The number of those registrations that occurred after 1 July 2011;
  - 3,808 children were registered from 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012.
- c) The number of applications for assessment and registration currently pending;
  - At 31 December there were 80 children awaiting registration
- d) A breakdown of registrations by residence (State or Territory);

**October 2008 to 31 January 2012**

	<b>Children registered by an Advisor</b>
<b>State/Territory</b>	number
<b>ACT</b>	217
<b>NSW</b>	6,181
<b>NT</b>	129
<b>QLD</b>	3,338

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<b>SA</b>	1,400
<b>TAS</b>	381
<b>VIC</b>	5,804
<b>WA</b>	1,335
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,785</b>

e) A breakdown of registrations by locality (urban, regional, rural)

- Urban locations make up 71% of all children who register, Regional is 28% and Rural is 1%.

f) From 1 July 2010 to 31 January 2012, the number of Medicare rebateable services provided under the Helping Children with Autism program is 70,589 (comprising the relevant psychiatrist and paediatrician items and the allied health assessment, diagnosis and treatment items). Please note, from 1 July 2011, Medicare rebateable services performed under the allied health assessment, diagnosis and treatment items (MBS items 82000 – 82035) are for both the Helping Children with Autism program and the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative.