

**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:** 346

**Topic:** NESB with a Disability

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

"There is no national data collection on people from NESB with disability beyond first generation i.e. country of birth. Children with disability born in Australia to one or both parents born in a non English speaking country are not captured. People with disability born in Australia but growing up in an ethnically diverse household that doesn't speak English at home are not captured.

1. What steps will FaHCSIA take to allow for planning, monitoring and funding of services and life outcomes for people from NESB with disability beyond the first generation people from NESB with disability to inform the National Disability Strategy, National Disability Agreement and the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

2. How will the Government through FaHCSIA ensure that ethnicity is not reduced to country of birth or language spoken at home? "

**Answer:**

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is the premier ABS source of national statistics on people with disability and carers. It is an important source for reporting under the National Disability Agreement and National Disability Strategy.

FaHCSIA is working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to explore the ways in which collections are targeted to extract information about people with disability from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.