

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 401

Topic: Person with a disability - support for siblings

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

I understand FaHCSIA delivers programs addressing the specific and unique needs of children with autism, children whose parents have separated and children who have been diagnosed as having a mental illness. What Federal Government funded programs are available to specifically address the needs of siblings of a person with a disability?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to Question on Notice 224 from the 2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearing.

In addition, FaHCSIA provides support to people with disability, their families (including siblings) and carers through a range of programs and services including:

- Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability;
- Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program;
- MyTime Peer Support Groups for Parents and Carers of Young People with Disability or Chronic Medical Condition;
- Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability; and
- Mental Health Respite: Carer Support.

The Australian Government has also provided \$1.6 million through the National Carer Strategy to fund a national campaign to raise public awareness of the role of carers and encourage people with caring responsibilities to seek assistance and support. This may assist siblings who provide personal care, support and assistance to a family member with disability or chronic illness but who do not identify themselves as carers.

More information on these activities is available on the FaHCSIA website at www.fahcsia.gov.au.