

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme Question No: SQ17-000330

Topic: Autism Advisors

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

What work if any has the Department done to examine the impact Autism Advisors currently have in supporting thousands of families following an autism diagnosis and how this function will carry over into the NDIS?

Answer:

An evaluation of Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) program, which includes the Autism Advisors program, was finalised and published in 2012. A copy of the evaluation is available on the Department of Social Services' website at www.dss.gov.au/search/search/HCWA%20evaluation.

Program funding for HCWA, including Autism Advisors, will transfer to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS approach to supporting families with children with autism is included in the Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach. Further details of the NDIS early intervention approach could be sought from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).