

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2017-2018 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome:** National Disability Insurance Agency

**Question No:** NDIA SQ17-000144

**Topic:** Autism

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Brown,** asked:

What understanding does the NDIA have of the Autism Adviser's services as a component of the Helping Children with Autism program

**Answer:**

The Commonwealth funded program Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) is an early intervention funding program that provides funding supports up to \$12,000 over two years for children up to the age of seven years who are eligible for these programs.

The Autism Advisor program is delivered by Autism associations in each jurisdiction and provides the following to families/carers:

- Information about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD);
- Information about local early intervention services and support services; and
- Access to the HCWA Early Intervention funding and the Rural and Remote payment (where applicable).

As the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rolls out, the individualised components of these programs will no longer be available as they will be replaced with individualised supports for children in an NDIS plan.

Other HCWA resources such as Early Days Workshops, Medicare items, playgroups and parent support groups will continue operating as usual and be available to families, with or without NDIS plans. These HCWA resources will continue to provide families with a range of supports to assist families with children newly diagnosed with Autism.

Further information regarding these resources are available on the websites of the Autism associations in each state and through the Autism Advisors within these associations. The Autism Advisors can help families with information regarding the HCWA transition to the NDIS.