

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 298

**Topic:** Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

**Hansard Page:** 21/10/2011 CA50

**Senator Scullion** asked:

Will you be examining registering FASD on the list of disabilities?

**Answer:**

Access to specialist disability services and income support is based on a functional assessment rather than the diagnosis of a disability.

FASD does not automatically qualify a carer for Carer Allowance (child) because the level of care a child requires can vary widely depending on the severity of the condition and how FASD manifests. Carers may qualify for Carer Allowance by being assessed under the Disability Care Load Assessment, which considers the level of care required and provided, regardless of the disability or medical condition.

There is no 'government disability register' for the Disability Support Pension (DSP). A person aged 16 or over with FASD who is unable to work because of an impairment could test their eligibility for DSP. People with FASD who are over age 16 may qualify for DSP if their level of impairment prevents them from working for 15 hours or more a week or at or above the relevant minimum wage, independent of a program of support, or being re-skilled for such work, for at least the next two years.

Specialist disability support for people with FASD, and their carers, is currently available through a range of services which are provided by state and territory governments under the National Disability Agreement.