

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: 5

Question No: 228

Topic: Siblings of Children and Adults with Disability and Chronic Illness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Wright asked:

One outcome of the National Disability Strategy is that ‘Families and Carers are well supported’. However, there is no measure of family support needs or support programs, and no performance indicators related to families. Siblings of children and adults with disability continue to be overlooked in spite of their lifelong relationship with the person with disability and in spite of them being shown to have higher rates of depression. When will performance indicators be included in the National Disability Strategy that truly reflect whole family support, especially for siblings?

Answer:

A set of draft trend indicators based on the six policy outcome areas of the National Disability Strategy were endorsed by COAG and Disability Ministers for inclusion in the Strategy.

The draft trend indicators can be measured through existing national data collections. A lack of data on family and sibling support from national population-based data sources currently impedes inclusion of a specific performance indicator for families.

As outlined in the National Disability Strategy, over time, more comprehensive and appropriate performance indicators can be identified along with processes needed to collect and analyse the data.