

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 211

Topic: Supports for parents with a history of complex trauma

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Given complex trauma has been found to underpin risk factors for child abuse and neglect e.g. mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and child sex abuse what programs are being supported to ensure that parents with a complex trauma history receive the support they need to address their core issues?

Answer: The Family Support Program (FSP) comprises a number of services to support vulnerable families affected by issues such as drugs, violence and trauma:

- *Specialised Family Violence Services* provides access to counselling and education for individuals who use violent or abusive behaviour, support for individuals affected by family violence, and support for children who experience or witness family violence.
- *Kids in Focus – Family Drug Support* provides support and services to families with members coping with, or at risk of, illicit drug use.
- *Family and Relationship Services (FARS)* provides assistance with family relationship issues including forming new relationships, overcoming relationship difficulties or dealing with separation, parenting and the care of children.
- *Find and Connect* support services for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, including trauma informed personalised support and counselling, assisted records tracing and peer support.

The Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) Program comprises a number of services to support people with mental illness, their families and carers:

- *The Family Mental Health Support Services* use prevention and early intervention to work with children and young people affected by, or at risk of, mental illness, and their families.
- *The Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs)* service provides one-on-one support to help people whose lives are severely affected by mental illness. Services funded under PHaMs take a strengths-based, recovery approach, and support participants in their recovery journey, building long term relationships and providing holistic support.

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The Community Investment Program supports vulnerable and disadvantaged people to participate in community life. This includes funding organisations to support adult survivors of child sexual abuse.