

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 415

Topic: Helping Children with Autism

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Is the department aware of allegations that some therapists are increasing their fees, in some cases doubling their fees when providing services under the autism package? If so, how widespread is this practice?

Answer:

At the end of 2010 FaHCSIA analysed over 95,000 claims to assess the hourly fees charged for Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy, concluding that there were only modest increases in the hourly rate charged across the life of the program.

Professional organisations generally do not publish set fees for services as this practice contravenes Australian Competition and Consumer and Commission (ACCC) guidelines. However, service providers' fee schedules are published on the FaHCSIA website providing information on the cost and type of early intervention therapy provided.