

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: 1

Question No: 27

Topic: Grandparent Peer Support Groups

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What services and support will the Grandparent peer support groups offer above and beyond what is already available through community groups such as Grandparents for Grandchildren?

Answer:

This model was recommended by Grandparents Australia.

As community groups providing assistance for grandparent carers have generally been established by grandparents on a voluntary basis, their services vary from group to group. For example, groups such as Grandparents for Grandchildren may provide a range of services including information on the Internet, while other groups may be less formal in structure.

The MyTime for Grandparents peer support groups will be nationally coordinated and delivered in targeted locations. They will provide support to grandparent carers via regular fortnightly meetings during school terms, with flexibility to ensure the timing of the sessions and topics discussed are of most value to the particular group.

The meetings will be run by a paid Facilitator who has qualifications and/or experience in parenting and family support to give grandparents the opportunity to openly discuss common issues or to individually discuss their issues with the group Facilitator in private as well as accessing information, resources and peer support from other grandparent carers. The Facilitator will be assisted by a Play Helper who will provide safe and age appropriate activities for the children while their grandparents participate in the group.

The National Coordinator engaged to deliver the groups will be required to ensure good relationships and collaborations are maintained with key stakeholders including Commonwealth, state and territory governments and local service providers helping to formalise linkages between these stakeholders and the peer support group Facilitators.