

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 81

Topic: Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator FIFIELD asked:

81. Will the next Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers seek to provide data on people with disability in the following categories:
- a. From a Non-English Speaking Background;
 - b. Born to a parent or parents from a Non-English Speaking Background;
 - c. Born overseas or to a parent or parents who were born overseas;
 - d. Identify with a specific ethnicity (separate from being born overseas or being born to a parent or parents born overseas)

Answer:

The ABS confirms that data from the next Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers will be available for some, but not all, of the categories stated above:

- a. The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers collects information on:
 - Country of birth. It should be noted that this measure may not necessarily provide information on people from a non-English speaking background as it is possible for a person to be born overseas into an English speaking family;
 - Main language spoken at home. This category is the closest the SDAC comes to describing someone from a non-English speaking background. From this measure it is possible to provide detail of the actual languages spoken at home;
 - Proficiency in English. Questions on proficiency in English were only asked of people who had already indicated that they spoke a language other than English at home. The category indicates whether a person speaks English:
 - Very well
 - Well
 - Not well
 - Not at all
- b. The SDAC does not collect information on parents from a Non-English speaking background. In 1993 there was a question on the Country of Birth of parents but at the time, less than 3% of the population who had a disability had parents who were born in Non-English speaking countries. This was too small a population to be of practical use in the survey, so the question was dropped.

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- c. Country of Birth of the respondent will be available from SDAC (and details of which country this is) but not for parents.
- d. There is no indicator of ethnicity separate from the Country of Birth of a respondent, however, the main language spoken at home can be determined and may provide some indication of ethnicity.