

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0605_12

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Helping with Children Autism Package

"How will funding be distributed for the Helping with Children Autism Package? Will it be by per capita, by student, by state, by school, etc or by any other model? Will there be additional weighting/criteria in funding formulae for autistic students living in the regions? If so, please outline what sort of measures or weighting they might be. "

Answer

The Department has responsibility for the Positive Partnerships Program, an element of the Helping Children with Autism Package. The Australian Autism Education and Training Consortium is currently contracted to deliver Positive Partnerships professional development and parent/carer workshops across Australia, between April 2008 and February 2012. These are held in both metropolitan and rural/regional areas.

Teachers are selected to take part in professional development workshops in consultation with state and territory education authorities.

Funding is not provided directly to schools. Education authorities contribute some costs (e.g. travel allowance) but the service provider pays for travel and accommodation.

Parent workshops are open to any parents of school-aged children with autism, and parents can register for workshops at www.autismtraining.com.au. The service provider hosts the workshops and parents pay their own costs such as travel and child minding.