

## MINISTER FOR AGEING, MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

### QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### ISSUE

#### **Question 6: Asked by The Hon Trevor Khan (page 15):**

In regard to children aged 0 to 5 years who are receiving CST services, can you provide details which show those who have not received any form of initial assessment or support from those receiving ongoing support and asking for additional assessment? Can this include some de-identified examples of people who are in categories of waiting a long time? Can the data be unpacked by Local Planning Area?

#### **Answer (additional information to that already supplied)**

##### **Case Study 1**

Ben is a young child with autism spectrum disorder and global developmental delay. He has been on ADHC's waiting list for 12 months. He has also previously received early intervention services through ASPECT (Autism Spectrum Australia).

As an interim response ADHC runs periodic information and screening clinics. Ben's mother attended a clinic as a means of obtaining updated information regarding clients on the waiting list and as a way of initiating and maintaining contact between ADHC and families.

At this clinic Ben's mother was able to access and obtain:

- information on the Autism initiative and the *Enhanced Primary Care Program (Medicare) Commonwealth Initiative*,
- a visual communication program to be implemented in the home environment,
- information surrounding Ben's transition to a diet that included different textured foods to assist with his eating and mealtimes at home,
- information on an upcoming Makaton (signing) Workshop that would be useful for Ben and the family.

The family has requested Ben remain on the speech pathology waiting list to assist with his transition to school.

## **Case Study 2**

A family has been waiting for an ADHC case management service for approximately 10 months to assist them with accessing services for their child, Charlotte, who has autism spectrum disorder.

A needs assessment was completed with the family and, as an interim measure, the family has also been provided with information on ASPECT services (for children with autism spectrum disorder); positive parenting courses, and the Building Blocks Program, which is an early intervention service for children with autism. ADHC has also provided the family with information on counselling services for Charlotte's siblings and the local Siblings Groups in the area and will invite the family to upcoming events.

In addition, a resource booklet, written by families of a child with a disability, has been provided to assist them to understand disability and navigate supports.

## **Case Study 3**

Maisy is three years old and has autism spectrum disorder. Her family has requested speech pathology, occupational therapy, case management and psychology from an ADHC Community Support Team. Maisy has been waiting for over 12 months for service allocation but, in the interim, ADHC staff have completed a needs assessment with the family. A successful referral was made to the Applied Behavioural Intervention program run by an ADHC funded NGO. Maisy and the family completed this program in July 2010. The family has also attended a NSW Health Psychology Clinic during this period where issues were identified and strategies provided to the family to address Maisy's behavioural needs. Additionally, information was given to the family about Commonwealth Government assistance for children with autism to assist with access to therapy services.