

## Question on Notice

No. 1237

Asked on Tuesday 15 September 2009

**MR CRIPPS** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MS PALASZCZUK)—

Will the Minister provide details of all expenditure by her department in 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10 to date (listed separately) on people with disabilities aged five years or less?

**ANSWER:**

The Bligh Government is committed to improving the lives of people with a disability and recognises the importance of providing families with timely early intervention support for their child with a disability. In 2009–10, more than \$20 million will be allocated to programs and services to support children with a disability.

Disability Services has two targeted programs providing early intervention for children with a disability aged five years or less—the Family and Early Childhood Service and Autism Early Intervention Initiative. Expenditure is as follows:

Program	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Family and Early Childhood Service	\$5.6 million	\$6.4 million	\$6.9 million
Autism Early Intervention Initiative	\$2 million	\$2 million	\$2 million

The Bligh Government also makes a strong commitment to respite funding. In 2008–09, approximately 11,950 children with a disability accessed respite services. This support is not broken down into children's age groups.

In addition, funding of \$3 million is provided between three non-government organisations to provide early intervention for children with a physical disability. These children are aged up to eight years.

An additional \$500,000 one-off block funding to provide aides and equipment for these children was also provided in 2008–09.