



MEDIA RELEASE

Select Senate Committee for Autism Established

27 November 2019

Hollie Hughes, Liberal Senator for NSW is thrilled to announce that the motion to establish a Select Committee on Autism was passed by the Senate today.

The inquiry will look into and report on the services, support and life outcomes for autistic people in Australia and the associated need for a National Autism Strategy.

Senator Hughes was delighted by this outcome saying, “This is a turning point for every person living with Autism and every family and carers who support them.”

“The NDIS has an Autism cohort of around 30% yet there has never been an inquiry into autism specifically; let alone one that is going to look at diagnosis right through to independence.” Senator Hughes said.

She went on to explain, “Effective and intensive quality early intervention is globally recognised as best practice for all development delays and neurological conditions including autism. By establishing an inquiry that aims to establish consensus of Australia’s approach to treatment upon diagnosis, every child will be given access to the most beneficial program and therapy.”

By way of understanding the broad spectrum of issues being examined, Senator Hughes said they will be looking at issues very specifically like transition; “Periods of transition in anyone’s life can be difficult but particularly difficult if you have autism. By gaining a better understanding of normal life transitions but as experienced by those with autism, like transition to school, transition to high school and transition to work, they will have a better opportunity to be properly supported.” Senator Hughes explained.

Senator Hughes also hopes that by establishing a recognised framework that those who have taken advantage of autism diagnoses by profiteering through “snake oil” type remedies or peddling false beliefs will be weeded out.

The Select Committee will begin their work early in the New Year and further details on the terms of reference and the work of the Committee will be available soon.

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