

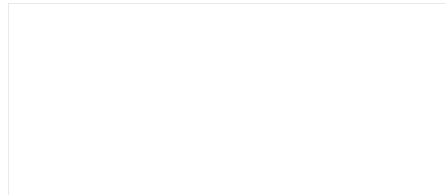
**Question No :** 287

**Question :** Facilities for Autistic Children

**Question Date :** 29/06/93

**Member :** Mrs HICKEY

**To :** MINISTER for EDUCATION and TRAINING



1. What educational facilities are available for autistic children within the Northern Territory.
2. Where are these facilities located.
3. What education program for autistic children is in place in the Northern Territory.
4. Where are the programs referred to in question 3 located.

**ANSWER**

1. The Northern Territory does not have a discrete facility solely for autistic children as is the case in some of the larger states. This is due to the fact that autism is a low-incidence disability and the NT does not have the numbers or need to develop such a facility.
2. Not applicable.
3. Programs for autistic children are determined on an individual basis, in accordance with the child's needs. Programs are devised by a team of teachers and specialists working collaboratively. Teams might include the class teacher, special education teacher, psychologist, therapist, general practitioner or other medical specialist and parents. Teachers may adapt programs devised generally for autistic children and the NT employs many specially trained teachers who have prior experience working in this field.
4. In cases where a child can be better catered for in a regular school setting, he/she would be supported by Special Education staff at that school. In severe cases, a Special School placement may be recommended. These Special Schools are located in Darwin at Ludmilla (for primary age children), Henbury Avenue (for secondary age children), at Acacia Hill in Alice Springs (for all ages) and at Kintore Street in Katherine (for all ages).