

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT***Chair: Mr Mike Symon MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Rowan Ramsey MP***INQUIRY INTO THE EARLY YEARS FUND SPECIAL ACCOUNT BILL 2013****Canberra hearing with DEEWR**

The House of Representatives Education and Employment Committee will tomorrow hold a public hearing for the inquiry into the Early Years Fund Special Account Bill 2013. The Committee will hear from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The purpose of this Bill is to establish a Special Account to administer the Early Years Quality Fund.

The Explanatory Memorandum states that:

“The Early Years Quality Fund will provide \$300 million over two years to support quality outcomes for children by assisting the early childhood services to attract and retain qualified hard working professionals in the sector and reduce the numbers of educators leaving the sector overall.

The Early Years Quality Fund will assist with maintaining the affordability of early childhood education, along with the Government’s substantial financial assistance to families through Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate, while ensuring the high quality of education and care for children.

All approved centre based long day care services approved for Child Care Benefit will be eligible to apply for the funding. Grants will be approved through an application and assessment process using a defined set of assessment criteria to be outlined in the Program Guidelines. Funding will be conditional on services agreeing to use the funding exclusively for the remuneration of employees and other employment-related costs and expenses, in relation to early childhood education and care employees. These may include but are not limited to:

- Superannuation contributions
- Leave entitlements
- Payroll tax
- Workers compensation
- Professional development activities.”

Date: Thursday 6 June 2013

Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

Time: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Webcast: Live on http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament
(audio only)

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Mr Mike Symon MP on 0418 362 154.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 email ee.reps@aph.gov.au