

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000085

Senator Lines, Sue provided asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 146

Impacts on families of the new activity test

Question

Senator LINES: Good. Thinking about families that will be impacted by the new activity test, I have some scenarios. I think we had some last time, or I think we asked you to model some scenarios last time, as I recall.

Say the father works full-time and earns \$75,000 per year and the mother works casual shifts in retail. One child is currently in care for two days a week, which provides for early education and for the mother to be available for the casual work. If she stops work when she has another child, how much subsidised care will the child currently in care be eligible for each week?

Ms J Wilson: I think we are going to have to take that on notice.

Mr Cook: It is a bit of a question.

Senator LINES: It is a pretty straightforward question.

Mr Cook: I think there is a range of variables in there to consider.

Ms J Wilson: Yes.

Mr Cook: To be accurate, we will certainly need to take that on notice so we can calculate it effectively for you.

Ms J Wilson: Did that scenario tell us what hours of care they were using at the moment?

Senator LINES: No.

Ms J Wilson: So we will need to know what—

Senator LINES: I beg your pardon—it does: two days per week.

Ms J Wilson: Okay.

CHAIR: Are they eight-hour days?

Senator LINES: It is a day—it is charged at a daily rate, even though we work in hours.

Answer

If the mother is entitled to either paid or unpaid maternity leave with her current employer, then she will maintain her access to child care while on maternity leave.