

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. SQ16-000183

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000955

Nanny Pilot program

Question

The Minister's media release on 20 April announcing the pilot program said: Provision has been made to continue support at the same level beyond the trial period, as an ongoing measure.

Further to this, in Estimates on 5 June we were told:

Mr Pratt: There is funding in the overall appropriation for a continuation of a nanny service, depending on what comes out of the trial. There is money set aside for a future program if the government decides to go with that.

And:

Mr Pratt: On the assumption that the trial is successful in some degree, based on the outcomes of the trial, there may be further advice to government, changes to the arrangements and so forth. But the money is there if it is needed.

- a. What funding "provision has been made to continue support at the same level beyond the trial period, as an ongoing measure", in terms of funding allocated in the original 2015-16 Budget allocation?
- b. Was this allocation revised in MYEFO?
- c. Where does this money sit in the 2015-16 Budget papers, and in 2015-16 MYEFO? Can you point me to a page in the 2015-16 Budget where I would find this allocation?
- d. Given the cost of the two-year pilot is now around \$185 million, it is reasonable to assume that the annual cost of continuing the nanny program would be in excess of \$90 million a year?
- e. And given the pilot ends in 2017, it is correct that there has been funding provide beyond the pilot for the remainder of the forward estimates, that is, for 2017-18 and 2018-19? So that would be in the order of an additional \$185 million?
- f. What is the estimate of the value that will go towards the evaluation of the programme from the total of \$246m?

Answer

- (a) An allocation of \$268.0 million (\$89.3 million in 2017-18 and \$178.8 million in 2018-19) was included in the forward estimates through the 2015-16 Budget to provide ongoing funding. This amount allowed for up to 4000 families anticipated to be participating in the Nanny Pilot Programme to access the Child Care Subsidy.
- (b) See (c) below.

- (c) The Nanny Pilot Programme is included the *Portfolio Budget Statements 2015-16*, Budget Related Paper No. 1.15A, Social Services Portfolio as outlined below:
- Page 105 includes the allocation of funding for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18 up to 31 December 2017 as part of the Child Care Services Support.
 - Page 111 includes the provision of ongoing funding from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019 as part of the Child Care Subsidy.

Page 158 in the 2015-2016 MYEFO reflected the reduction from 4000 to 3000 places for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18 up until 31 December 2017; the ongoing impact of the reduction from 1 January 2018 for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 will be amended at the next estimates update process.

(d) Refer to part (a) for the funding allocation.

(e) Refer to part (a) for the funding allocation.

(f) Refer to SQ16-000182 (c).