

**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. SQ16-000204**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

***Registered Child Care Benefit***

**Question**

Will the Registered Child Care Benefit (or equivalent) continue under the proposed child care changes?

- a. Does this mean that people currently receiving it will either receive no support, or will have to change the type of care they receive to a more expensive approved care option?
- b. Please provide updated figures of how many people currently receive the Registered Child Care Benefit – how many are grandparents?
- c. What is the total cost of the Registered Child Care Benefit per year?

**Answer**

As announced in the 2015–16 Budget as part of the *Jobs for Families Child Care Package*, registered care is a ceasing programme and will no longer be available from 1 July 2017. The Productivity Commission recommended that the registered care category under the Child Care Benefit be removed because the benefits of subsidised care provided by registered carers did not outweigh the costs.

- a. From 1 July 2017, people who currently claim Child Care Benefit for registered care will no longer be able to claim an Australian Government subsidy for that type of care. To receive the new Child Care Subsidy, individuals will need to use child care from an approved care type and meet the eligibility requirements for the subsidy.
- b. The latest available data shows that in 2014–15, there were 35,315 customers who had Child Care Benefit claims for registered care granted.

Data is not collected by customer type (for example, parents, grandparent guardians, single parent families) and we are therefore unable to determine how many registered care customers are grandparents.

- c. In 2014–15, the total amount of Child Care Benefit claimed for registered care was \$10 million (GST exclusive). Currently, families who pay to use registered care can access, upon presentation of receipts, a small subsidy of \$0.696 per hour per child or \$34.80 for a maximum of 50 hours of child care per week for children below school age. Families using registered care have never been able to access Child Care Rebate.