

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000143

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye provided in writing.

Modelling on impact of child care reforms in rural and regional Australia

Question

Was any modelling done on the impact of the child care reforms in rural and regional Australia?

Answer

Services whose core purpose is child care will continue to be supported to provide services to their community regardless of where they are located.

Modelling specific to regional and remote Australia was not undertaken for the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package (the Package) because the policy settings for the new Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy do not vary based on the location of families.

However, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) were engaged in May 2016 to consult with grant funded child care services in rural, regional and remote communities and have provided 180 baseline reports and transition plans to assist individual services to move to new funding arrangements. The Department of Education and Training recognises that rural and regional services cannot be funded under a 'one size fits all approach', and these services will be able to seek supplementary tailored sustainability grant funding under the Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) in addition to the CCS and the Additional Child Care Subsidy. These three funding streams combined mean that services will be better off financially.