

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000166**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah provided in writing.

***National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education***

**Question**

Will the Government be extending or negotiating a new National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education, and when will negotiations commence? Has the Government given consideration to extending the National Partnership Agreement to provide Universal Access to early childhood education to 3 year olds as well as 4 year olds? Has there been any modelling undertaken of the cost of extending the NPA on universal access to include 3 year olds (or the year two years before school?)

**Answer**

The current National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education makes \$840 million available to states and territories to support all children's participation in a quality preschool program for 600 hours per year throughout 2016 and 2017.

The Australian Government is considering funding arrangements for preschool from 2018 and has undertaken to make an announcement ahead of the 2018 school year.