

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. SQ17-000168

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000959

Impact of child care changes on workforce participation

Question

How did the Department calculate the 230,000 figure on page 214 of the Omnibus Bill currently before the Parliament? Has the Department ever briefed the Minister about concerns with the use of this figure?

Answer

ORIMA Research Pty Ltd was contracted in stages by both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education and Training to provide qualitative and quantitative research to gauge and quantify Australian families' perceptions of, and likely behavioural responses to, a range of possible child care assistance models. The findings were derived from this research and extrapolated to a national level using ABS census data.

Quantitative research undertaken by ORIMA found that 23 per cent of families with children under twelve, both in work and out of work, indicated they would be encouraged to work more as a result of these measures. Based on 2011 Census data, this would translate to around 230,000 families being encouraged to increase their involvement in paid employment.