

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0206_14

Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 48

Question

Early Years Quality Fund - wage increases

Senator CASH: My understanding is that Mr De Silva and other members of this department have on previous occasions said that the advisory board would determine the wage amount and that the \$3 that was announced by the government is not necessarily set in stone. Do you recall saying that? Mr De Silva: I do not think I have discussed the Early Years Quality Fund before. Ms Paul: We have not had any outings since the budget, until now. Senator CASH: Not even in any briefings? Ms Paul: There was some evidence last night which was not from these people. It was in workplace relations with Senator Abetz. We will check that Hansard, if you like. Senator CASH: If you could. Please also come back to the committee, and take this on notice, and clarify the evidence given in relation to the increase and whether or not the board will or will not have the role of determining the wage amount and whether or not the \$3 is or is not set in stone. Ms Taylor: We will take that on notice. Ms Paul: We can answer the second part, which we have already answered in questions from Senator Xenophon. The advisory board is advisory only. But in terms of the set in stone, we will come back with the right form of words. Ms Taylor: The ratios that come in from 1 January next year have the requirement for all workers to hold a qualification or to be working towards one. From 1 January next year the level of qualification rises to the certificate III minimum.

Answer

We have examined the Hansard transcript of 4 June 2013 and there does not appear to be specific evidence relating to the wage increase.