

**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. EW0210_14

Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 51

Question

Child care vacancies

Senator CASH: Could I now turn very briefly to the issue of vacancies. Has the department undertaken any research into the vacancy rates or wait lists for the zero-to-two age group? Ms Taylor: I think the answer is no for that particular age group, but I will ask Ms Caldwell just to check that. Ms Caldwell: The department collects and publishes a range of information on childcare vacancies, part of which is, as Ms Taylor mentioned, aggregated. We do have some available information on the zero-to-two-year-old— Senator CASH: My question was: have you undertaken any research into the vacancy rates or wait lists for zero to two? Is the answer yes? Ms Taylor: It is not research; it is information collected about the vacancies. Senator CASH: What information could you give to the committee then? For example, how many children currently are in childcare benefit approved care in this group and how many were in this cohort in 2011 and 2012? Ms Caldwell: During the September quarter 2012, we know that the majority of all long-day care services who were reporting that they provide care to zero- to two-year-olds had at least one vacancy for that age group in the reference period. Senator CASH: How many children currently are in CCB-approved care in this group? Ms Caldwell: To have that broken down from the zero- to two-year-olds as a subset, we would take on notice. Senator CASH: You will take it on notice. Okay. How many vacancies were there in 2011? In the September quarter 2012, there was one vacancy for that particular age group. How does that compare with 2011? Ms Taylor: We would take that on notice as well.

Answer

In the September quarter 2012, 266,770 children aged 0–2 years used Child Care Benefit approved child care compared with 264,890 in the September quarter 2011.

The Department does not collect data on the number of vacancies by age group.