

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0096_15

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Family Day Care and the Community Support Program

1. Family Day care is set to lose \$157 million, how many family day care services will be affected by the changes to Community Support Programme eligibility criteria?
2. What is the percentage of total services affected?
3. How many children and families will be affected by these changes?
4. What modelling has been done by the department on the cost to families?
5. In dollar terms what impact will the impact be on a family with 2 children attending family day care full time?
6. Have these price increases been budgeted for in Child Care Rebate outlays in the forward years?

Answer

1. This is not a savings measure. The CSP has received an additional \$11.4 million over the forward estimates. The introduction of eligibility criteria for Family Day Care services is projected to better target available funding and bring the programme back within its budget allocation. The number of services impacted by the introduction of eligibility criteria in July 2015 will depend on the number of services that meet the criteria at that time.
2. See answer to Question 1 above.
3. The CSP provides funding directly to approved service operators. It is not a fee subsidy or a payment to families or educators. Changes to the CSP do not preclude FDC services from being established or from continuing to provide care for, and administer Australian Government fee assistance such as Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate on behalf of families.
4. The CSP provides funding directly to approved service operators. It is not a fee subsidy or a payment to families.
5. See answer to Question 4 above.
6. See answer to Question 4 above.