

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. ED0241_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Increase in the uptake of the CCB and CCR

The budget papers forecast a significant increase in the uptake of the CCB and CCR over the forward estimates compared with last year's budget and on the additional budget estimates update published in February. What has the department based these increases on? a. Why does projected cost of the CCB almost double over the forward estimates (PBS p 36) – increasing from \$2.36 billion in 2014-15 to \$3.72 in 2017-18 - an increase of 37 per cent – when the number of recipients does not increase at the same rate? b. Why does projected cost of the CCR almost double over the forward estimates (PBS p 36) – increasing from \$2.2 billion in 2014-15 to \$4.3 billion in 2017-18 - an increase of 49 per cent – when the number of recipients does not increase at the same rate? c. Do the projections take into account the possibility of the CCR and CCB being extended to nannies and au pairs? If so, by how much is that forecast to increase demand? If not, has the department done any modelling on what impact that would have on demand for CCR & CCB

Answer

Response to question a and b:

It is not correct to compare figures in this way as outlays in 2013-14 refer to the period since the establishment of the Department of Education following Machinery of Government changes in September 2013 and therefore only reflect nine months of the year.

Response to question c:

The forward estimates take into account the current settings – they do not include nannies or au pairs. The Department has not modelled the impact of nannies or au pairs on CCB and CCR.