

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. ED0301_15

Senator Lines asked on 4 June 2014 , Hansard page 55

Question

universal access hours

Senator LINES: Thank you. The Victorian government's commented that if it does not receive federal government funding for universal access to preschool, it would need to cut its program back to around 10 hours per week. Can the department provide the research that was used to research the ideal of 15 hours of preschool per week? Ms Wilson: I think we might have talked to this before. We can certainly have a look. I do not think there was one piece of research that landed on 15, it is fair to say. I think Senator McKenzie might have talked about this before, actually. There were whole pieces of research which suggested some engagement in the year before school was really important to the development of children and helping the transition to school. There were variable bits of research about what the best number of hours were. Senator LINES: So there is a varied amount of research, but you will have a look. I think ECA has a claim that it is 30 hours. I think that came up in the Hansard for the hearing we have just done. That is all I have at the moment. Thank you very much.

Answer

The department has not identified any specific research that identified 15 hours of preschool per week as ideal.