

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000871

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Information on occupancy rates

Question

Does the Department have any information on occupancy rates? Can you also provide that over time and by region?

a. If not – does any other agency collect this information? ACECQA?

Does the Department have any information on occupancy rates, vacancies and waiting lists? Can you also provide that over time and by region? For every service if possible?

a. Note the Department’s website says:

“Services must report anticipated vacancies to the department on a weekly basis reflecting the number of vacancies your service anticipates and is willing to fill each day of the following week.”

b. What proportion of services comply with this requirement? What are the consequences if they do not?

Answer

(1) Neither the Department of Education and Training nor the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) collects information on child care service occupancy rates.

a) The department does not collect data on waiting lists. The department does collect data on child care vacancies as reported by child care services. This information is available on www.mychild.gov.au. The department’s quarterly *Early Childhood and Child Care in Summary* publication contains aggregate data on vacancies. This is available at www.education.gov.au/child-care-update.

b) The table below shows the proportion of services providing vacancy information, as reported in the September quarter 2016 *Early Childhood and Child Care in Summary* publication (most recent publicly available data).

Please refer to SQ17-000873 for information on the consequences for non-reporting.

Service Type	Proportion of services reporting vacancy data
Long Day Care	92%
Family Day Care	42%
Occasional Care	71%
Before and After School Care	80%
Vacation Care	60%