

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. SQ17-000872

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Benchmark price - monitoring

Question

Is the Department monitoring price movements for services with prices below the benchmark price to make sure they are not increased to the benchmark? How is this being done?

Answer

Fee charging practices are commercial decisions made by child care service providers; they are not prescribed or regulated under Family Assistance Law.

The Department of Education and Training currently monitors fees charged for child care, including reporting on average hourly child care fees on a quarterly basis. This monitoring will continue following the introduction of the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) so the department can identify fees charged by service type and any changes or trends.

Hourly rate caps and parent co-payments are features of the reforms that are designed to constrain price growth. There will be a particular focus on early monitoring of child care fees so the impact of the reforms can be identified.