

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

**Department of Education Question No. ED0196_14
Senator Tillem asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 74**

**Question
Childcare Reference Group**

Senator TILLEM: Was the reference group a paid body in the previous government?
Mr Cook: Senator, would you mind just clarifying the reference group you are referring to? Senator TILLEM: The childcare reference group. I have been advised that the previous government had established a childcare reference group. Mr Cook: In relation to the early years quality fund? Senator TILLEM: Yes. Mr Cook: That is around a particular initiative rather than a broader thing—this group is actually quite a broad group talking about early childhood and childcare generally. Ms Paul: The reference group was a time limited body to advise the former government on the creation and implementation of an early years quality fund against the former government's policy. This group is different. This would cover the whole of the early childhood sector rather than just one program and is not time limited in the same way. So it would be quite different. But actually you are asking about remuneration. I do not know if the reference group that advised on the EYQF was remunerated or not. Mr Cook: We would have to take on notice whether they had sitting fees.

Answer

The Early Years Quality Fund Advisory Board did not receive sitting fees for participating on the Advisory Board.