

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Care**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0436\_15**

**Senator Lines provided in writing.**

**Question**

**National Partnership on Universal Access - participation targets**

I refer to page 42 of Budget Paper 3, which indicates that no funding was allocated to extend the National Partnership on universal access to early childhood education but that an undisclosed sum was set aside in the Contingency Reserve subject to negotiations with the States. (a) Will the extended partnership agreement include a requirement for the states and territories to set new participation or attendance targets? (b) How will the department ensure that \$406 million federal funding for universal access to preschool will be sufficient to reach the participation or attendance targets?

**Answer**

- (a) Participation and attendance targets under the extended partnership will remain the same as under the current National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.
- (b) Funding of \$406 million under the extension to the National Partnership is for the maintenance of universal access, with a focus on increasing the participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged children. The quantum of funding is based on the current funding allocation. Under the extension to the National Partnership, funding to jurisdictions is linked to the demonstration of performance benchmarks relating to participation and attendance targets.