

**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. ED0440\_15**

**Senator Lines provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Children in child care - increase**

Page 37 of PBS has revised 2013-14 budget figures of 1,436,000 children using approved child care places. The latest Child Care and Early Learning in Summary calculates that 1,120,880 children were in child care in the December quarter 2013.

(a) Can you explain why there was such a large increase in reported numbers of children in approved care in the last two years and the rationale for the modelling of the next two years?

(b) Is it a modelling issue or a real issue?

**Answer**

(a) and (b) The 2013-14 figures in the PBS relate to a full (financial) year, while the data in the latest Child Care and Early Learning in Summary report relate to a quarter (December quarter 2013). As these two numbers relate to different time periods it is not possible to make a direct comparison. As children may attend child care in more than one quarter, but may not necessarily for all quarters of a year, the quarterly number will always be smaller than the full year number.

The revised 2013-14 budget figures for children in approved care is based on the latest available data and constitutes an increase of approximately 90 000 children from the 2013-14 budget estimate.