

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000932

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Jobs for Families package - RIS

Question

In relation to the RIS for the Jobs for Families package:

- a. How much did the RIS process cost?
- b. How much was the contract with Early Childhood Australia?
- c. How much was spent on advertising the consultations?
- d. How many people participated in the RIS consultations?
- e. How many submissions were received?
- f. Will the consultation report be publically released? When?
- g. Were the numbers of children affected provided in the RIS for each of the following Government regulatory impacts? If not – why not? And please provide the answers:
 - i. Numbers of children accessing Child Care Subsidy as a result of the new Child Care Subsidy
 - ii. Numbers of children whose families are failing to meet the activity test as the result of the tightened activity test
 - iii. The numbers of children seeing a reduction in subsidised hours as the result of the tightened activity test
- h. Were the numbers of families affected provided in the RIS for each of the following Government regulatory impacts? If not – why not? And please provide the answers:
 - i. Numbers of families accessing the Child Care Subsidy
 - ii. Numbers of families are failing to meet the activity test as the result of the tightened activity test
 - iii. The numbers of families seeing a reduction in subsidised hours as the result of the tightened activity test
- i. Were the numbers of services affected and the cost to early childhood services provided in the RIS for each of the following Government regulatory impacts? If not – why not? And please provide the answers:
 - i. The Child Care Subsidy
 - ii. Families failing to meet the activity test as the result of the tightened activity test
 - iii. A reduction in subsidised hours for families as the result of the tightened activity test

Answer

- a. The facilitation of the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) consultations was included in a contract that the Department of Social Services entered into with Early Childhood Australia, valued at \$452,103 (GST inclusive), for the provision of services in relation to managing consultations for the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package.
- b. As above.
- c. Early Childhood Australia was required to promote the RIS consultations, as part of their contract. No other advertising expenses were incurred.

- d. Around 1700 individuals or organisations participated in the RIS consultations throughout July 2015.
- e. 79 written submissions were received.
- f. No decision has been made about the release of the consultation report. Submissions are publicly available on the Early Childhood Australia website.
- g. No. The number of children affected by the Child Care Subsidy and the activity test was not included in the RIS as these elements of the Package concern family eligibility and do not have a regulatory impact.
- h. The RIS indicates that the Jobs for Families Child Care Package will provide greater choice for more than 1.2 million families by delivering a simpler, more affordable, more flexible and more accessible child care system. The number of families affected by the activity test was not included in the RIS as these elements of the Package concern family eligibility and do not have a regulatory impact.
- i. The RIS indicates the estimated net regulatory impact of the Package is a decrease in regulatory costs (a saving) of \$104.48 million. The number of services affected and the cost to services of the impact on families of the activity test were not included in the RIS as these elements of the Package concern family eligibility and do not have a regulatory impact.