

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. SQ15-000933

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

RIS on the Government's proposed child care changes

Question

In relation to the RIS on the Government's proposed child care changes:

- a. Why didn't the RIS identify the impact of the activity test changes on affected families, children and services?
- b. Were stakeholders in a position to give adequate feedback on the child care changes given such a significant amount of detail was completely missing?
- c. Will further consultation be undertaken when the details of the families, children and services impacted are released?

Answer

- a. Page 32 of the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) that was published in June 2015 discusses the impact of the activity test changes on families and page 34 discusses the impact of the activity test on services.
- b. Yes. The RIS provided significant detail on the Jobs for Families child care package, the current system and the Productivity Commission's recommended reforms. Throughout the last two years, there has been significant consultation with the child care sector, including through the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning and the national RIS consultations in July 2015. Both of these processes provided significant data and details to inform consultations and sought the views of services and families.
- c. Further consultation will be undertaken on the implementation of, and transition to, the Jobs for Families child care package, as required.