

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. SQ15-000934

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Australian Government Guide to Regulation – special cases

Question

According to the section “Special Cases” in the Australian Government Guide to Regulation: “A RIS covering matters which were the subject of an election commitment will not be required to consider a range of policy options.

Only the specific election commitment need be the subject of regulatory impact assessment and in this situation, the focus should be on the commitment and the manner in which the commitment should be implemented.”

- a) Was the Jobs for Families package an election commitment?
- b) If it was not an election commitment - why wasn't there the option in the RIS of no change to the activity test, and no change to abolishing Child Care Benefit?
- c) Is it best practice to have a RIS consultation without providing all of the options to key stakeholders?

Answer

- a) At the 2013 Federal Election the Coalition committed to task the Productivity Commission (PC) to undertake an Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning as part of delivering a more flexible, accessible and affordable child care system. The *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package is the Government's response to the PC report.
- b) The Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) provided three options in accordance with compliance requirements prescribed by the Office of Best Practice Regulation. The three options provided were:
 - no change option (including retaining the existing activity test and continuing the Child Care Benefit)
 - the Productivity Commission's recommended reforms
 - the Jobs for Families Child Care Package.
- c) As described above, three options were provided in the RIS for consultation.