

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. SQ15-000937

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Government's proposed child care changes

Question

For the Government's proposed child care changes, the RIS indicates legislation would need to be 'in place' by 30 June 2016 for the necessary IT changes to be in place by mid-2017 – is this the latest possible date that the legislation would need 'in place' in order for the changes to take effect at the scheduled time? What would the latest possible time be?

Answer

The Australian Government introduced the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015 into Parliament on 2 December 2015. It is the Government's intention to have the legislation passed by Parliament before 30 June 2016 to provide a 12 month transition period for families and services.

Any delay beyond 30 June 2016 will impact on the development of the new Information Technology system that will be required to support the Package and the transition arrangements for child care services and families.

The Bill contains several compliance provisions relating to provider approvals that are due to come into effect from 1 July 2016. Any delay to the passage of the legislation beyond 30 June 2016 will impact the Government's ability to address serious non-compliance in the child care sector where in 2015, fraud and non-compliance activities are estimated to have cost at least \$300 million.