

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. SQ15-000944

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Categories of carer eligible under the Registered Care program

Question

What categories of carer are eligible under the Registered Care program? Please provide the number of families, and the number of children, who are cared for under each of these categories. Please also provide the annual cost of registered care in each of the categories across the forwards.

Answer

Registered child care is child care provided by grandparents or other relatives, friends or nannies who are registered with the Department of Human Services as registered care providers.

Under the Registered Care program, registered carers must:

- be 18 years of age or older
- be under 18 and have relevant qualifications in child care, home based help, or as a nanny
- provide direct care to children on a regular basis
- lodge a Registered Carer application with the Department of Human Services.

Individuals eligible to apply can include:

- relatives
- friends
- neighbours
- nannies
- individuals in some child care services such as:
 - private preschools and kindergartens
 - some outside school hours services, including before and after school and vacation care and holiday programs; for example, sporting and artistic camps
 - some occasional care centres

Individuals are not eligible to be registered carers if they provide care within a child care service which offers Child Care Benefit approved care or is a budget-based funded or non-formula funded service.

There is no separate appropriation for Registered Care. The Department of Education and Training does not separately report on this payment. Provision of this information at the level of detail requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of the department's resources.