

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. SQ15-000956

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

The nanny pilot and au pairs

Question

In relation to the nanny pilot and au pairs:

- a. In July the Government changed the visa rules around au pairs so that they can now work for up to 12 months, and the nanny pilot guidelines require nannies to have a working visa that allows at least 12 months of continuous employment, does this mean that people in Australia on an au pair visa are eligible to participate as nannies in the pilot?
- b. How will the Department satisfy itself that au pairs engaged as nannies in the pilot are not providing other services typically provided by au pairs, such as cooking and cleaning? Aside from it being a requirement under the contracts (if that is the case), what steps will the Department take to ensure the integrity system? Or is this left entirely up to the good conscience of the service providers and the nannies they engage?

Answer

- a. An au pair is eligible to participate in the Nanny Pilot Programme as a nanny if they:
 - are at least 18 years old
 - hold a working with children check
 - hold a first aid qualification
 - are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or have a relevant visa that allows employment on a continuous basis of 12 months or more
 - engaged by or attached to a service provider.
- b. Under the Nanny Pilot Programme, a nanny can only undertake work that is related to the care of the children, such as preparing a child's lunch, cleaning up afterwards, or putting away toys.

The grant agreement between the Department of Education and Training and the service provider will specify that the service provider will enter into a written agreement with the nanny. This agreement must specify that a nanny cannot undertake cleaning, shopping or household duties for a family unless directly related to the care of the children.

The department will be undertaking compliance checks to ensure that service providers are meeting the terms and conditions in their grant agreement.