

**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. SQ15-000959**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

***Jobs for Families package***

**Question**

What level of certainty does the Department have in relation to claims that the proposed child care changes will result in 240,000 families increasing their involvement in paid employment as a result of the Jobs for Families package? And 38,000 jobless families will enter the workforce?

- a. How will these claims be measured?
- b. Over what time period are these outcomes expected?
- c. Has a qualitative survey been used in this way before, to make such significant workforce participation claims without releasing any economic modelling?
- d. Has the publication of this research been discussed with the new Minister?
- e. Have these workforce participation claims been used in the costing of the government's proposed child care changes?

**Answer**

ORIMA Research Pty Ltd was contracted in stages by both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education and Training to provide qualitative and quantitative research to gauge and quantify Australian families' perceptions of, and likely behavioural responses to, a range of possible child care assistance models. The findings were derived from this research and extrapolated to a national level using ABS census data.

Quantitative Research undertaken to investigate potential impacts on workforce participation found that 23 per cent of families with children under twelve, both in work and out of work, indicated they would be encouraged to work more as a result of these measures. Based on 2011 Census data, this would translate to around 230,000 families being encouraged to increase their involvement in paid employment.

- a. Following the implementation of the package, a formal evaluation will be conducted. The evaluation will identify outcomes of the package, to be achieved over time, including the performance and impact of the main elements of the package, such as the Child Care Subsidy.
- b. Refer previous answer.
- c. The department cannot comment on other research undertaken.
- d. The department cannot comment on discussions with the Minister, as this relates to advice provided to Government.
- e. The Quantitative Research findings were used to inform the development of the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package.