

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. SQ15-000969

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Family day care sector savings over the forward estimates

Question

On 21 October 2015 at a joint press conference with the Education Minister, the Treasurer said the Government's measures to stop child swapping in the family day care sector will yield savings of \$930 million over the forward estimates.

- a. Please provide a breakdown of these savings over the forward estimates.
- b. Are these savings reflected in the 2015-16 Budget? Where in the budget papers are they reflected? What assumptions underpin this savings measure?
- c. How many family day carers engaged in child swapping in 2014-15? How much in CCB and CCR assistance had these families received in 2014-15 in relation to a child involved in a child-swapping care arrangement?
- d. How many family day carers engaged in child swapping in 2015-16, prior to the introduction of the new arrangements? How much in CCB and CCR assistance had these families received during this period in relation to a child involved in a child-swapping care arrangement?
- e. How many families over each year of the forward estimates are assumed to be prevented from child swapping as a result of these measures?
- f. How many children over each year of the forward estimates are assumed to be prevented from being part of a child swapping arrangement a result of these measures?

Answer

- a. The estimated saving is \$930.6 million. This measure was contained in the Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.
- b. No. The measure and associated savings were announced post-budget. The savings were calculated using 2014–15 data of services with educators and children involved in child swapping arrangements, multiplied by sessions of care and their dollar value, discounted by the estimated value of families qualifying for specified circumstances.
- c.
 - (i) Approximately 10,480
 - (ii) The estimated value of CCB/CCR is approximately \$358.2 million
- d.
 - (i) Approximately 10,320
 - (ii) The estimated value of CCB/CCR is approximately \$101.1 million
- e. The model was based at the service level (with average numbers of educators and children), not at the family level. Provision of an accurate response to the question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- f. The model was based at the service level (with average numbers of educators and children), not at the level of individual children. Provision of an accurate response to the question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.