

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 164

Topic: Childhood Education

Hansard Page: 15/02/2013 CA14

Senator Scullion asked:

As the lead agency, in terms of Closing of the Gap, are you aware of any current plans, as part of the Closing the Gap report, to include in that more information so that the engagement of people under four years old is a little bit easier to measure than just the fact we have got a program in place? Are you aware of any specific proposals to do that?

Answer:

Measurement of this target is based on enrolment in a preschool program rather than the existence of a program. The National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection is compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from data provided by all States and Territories, and the Commonwealth Government. The National ECEC Collection commenced in 2010 and is progressively moving towards a comprehensive annual collection of an enrolment and *attendance* data for preschool programs in Australia. More information about the NCEC is available in National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2011 (ABS Cat. no 4240.0.55.001)