

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
16 FEBRUARY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working age policy

Output 3.1.1: Working age policy and legislation

Question Number: W689-06

Senator Wong asked in writing How will a parent prove that they cannot obtain suitable child care in their area?

Answer:

Parents will only have to accept a job that requires them to work outside school hours if approved outside school hours child care is available.

Employment service providers and Centrelink will assist parents with locating approved child care and with information about child care subsidies to help them meet the costs of child care.

Parents are responsible for informing themselves of the availability and suitability of child care – Centrelink forms will require job seekers to sign that they are aware of this.

If a parent does not accept a job on the basis that they have no child care available, the employment service provider will decide whether there is evidence that approved child care was available in their area. The employment service provider could then document this in a participation report to Centrelink.

Centrelink will make the final decision on any non-compliance.