

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW1109_09

Senator **Payne** asked on **25 February 2009**, EEWWR Hansard page **35**

Question

Child Care Industry Taskforce Questions on ABC Learning

"Senator PAYNE—Perhaps the minister can help me, then. Minister, in regional and remote areas, where centres are potentially the only provider in those areas and where parents have nothing else on which to rely except for those centres that are in this category, is any concern or consideration being paid by the government to ensuring that a centre of that nature does remain open post the 31 March environment?

Ms Paul—It is probably worth saying here that at the moment the process is quite clear. Mr Manthorpe has outlined it. If those considerations need to be made, I am sure the government will want to consider a range of options. We could certainly do work in that area. But that is not the case yet, Senator, because relatively fortunately we are in the position of expressions of interest having been made on all centres. We will get a much better sense of what we are actually facing in terms of where the court appointed receiver is after today, when those binding offers close. So if you like, we can come back on notice and update you with that information—

Senator PAYNE—That would be helpful, Ms Paul—

Ms Paul—as soon as it is available once the court appointed receiver has gone through their work."

Answer

Since the Senator asked her question, PPB Corporate Recovery made a further announcement on 15 April 2009 on the future of the government supported ABC Learning centres. Of the 241 centres that were originally subject to the court appointed receivership process, 8 were identified as being in locations where there was no nearby alternative child care available and satisfactory bidders had not been identified. The Government has asked PPB to make a further effort at identifying sustainable solutions for these centres by June 2009.