

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

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

DEEWR Question No. EW 1112_09

Senator **Hanson-Young** asked on **25 February 2009**, EEWL Hansard page **39**

Question

Child Care Industry Taskforce Questions on ABC Learning

"Senator HANSON-YOUNG—Do we know if the utilisation numbers of centres has dropped since the beginning of the year?

Mr Manthorpe—I do not have current utilisation figures with me. I would have to take that on notice and see, one, whether we have it and, two, whether we would normally divulge utilisation data.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG—Well, I guess the reason I am asking is: when you calculated the \$34 million, was that based on the current utilisation at that time in December? Did it take into account a growth or perhaps drop in utilisation from 1 January? Obviously that would vary the amount of loss for each individual centre.

Mr Manthorpe—I might have to take that on notice, Senator. I know those were the sorts of considerations we were thinking about at the time we were arriving at the \$34 million figure, but I do not want to risk misleading you. I would rather just check out how best to respond to that question on notice."

Answer

A drop in centre utilisation has occurred since the beginning of the year and was taken into account as part of the calculation to determine the \$34 million estimate of centre losses.