

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0917_10

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

Was the Government expecting a four-year trained early childhood teacher to be in place in every long day child care centre by 2014 as outlined by COAG? Please explain the administrative and funding commitments that are in place to ensure that this commitment is achieved.

Answer

As part of the National Quality Agenda for early childhood education and care there is a requirement that by 1 January 2014 an early childhood teacher will need to be in attendance all of the time when long day care and preschool services are being provided to 25 children or more.

The administrative and funding commitments that are being supported by the Australian Government include:

- \$3.1 billion in Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate to support families using approved child care in 2009-10, rising to \$3.7 billion in 2013-14.
- \$955 million over five years to 2012–13 for Universal Access to early childhood education, which is being provided to state and territory governments under the National Partnership for Early Childhood Education (NP ECE). Under the NP ECE, state and territory governments have committed to actions to improve teacher qualifications in line with the Universal Access commitment to be provided in a range of settings including long day care centres.
- \$61.27 million allocated under the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda to states and territories over four years. This is to assist with the new regulatory arrangements for long day care, family day care, outside school hours care and preschool which will include assessment of the requirement for an early childhood trained teacher.
- Australian Government initiatives over four years to assist with increasing the supply and retention of early childhood education teachers as follows:
 - Additional Early Childhood Education Places: \$53.9 million to create additional Commonwealth supported continuing university places for early childhood teachers, starting with 500 places in 2009 and rising to 1500 continuing places by 2011.
 - HECS-HELP benefit for early childhood teachers: \$12.4 million to reduce by around half the HECS-HELP debt of early childhood teachers who work in regional and remote areas, Indigenous communities and areas of high disadvantage.