

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0791_11

Senator Nash asked on 24/02/2011, Hansard page 25.

Question

STAFF MEETING CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

Senator NASH—Have you done any analysis of how many staff you may lose who may not meet criteria, thereby putting even more pressure on the workforce, given that we have such pressure on finding skilled workers? Mr Manthorpe—I would not quite put it in the terms you have asked the question. We have certainly done modelling of how many staff we need at the different qualification levels. Access Economics did quite a thorough piece of work on that. We are happy to provide details of that to you to give you a sense of where we are now and where we need to get to. We are hoping that the reverse to what you were describing will happen; rather than losing people—or, at least, losing them in large numbers—we hope that many people will be able to get to a point where they either RPL or do a training program to get up-to-speed.

Answer

The Department engaged Access Economics to undertake modelling and analysis to determine the numbers of early education and care (ECEC) staff required on a national level to meet the requirements of the National Quality Agenda and the Universal Access commitment.

Access Economics projected that:

- between 2010 and 2020, the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Certificate III qualified staff required grows from 14,000 to 34,000.
- between 2010 and 2020, the number of FTE Diploma qualified staff required grows from 13,500 to 28,000.
- between 2010 and 2020, the number of FTE Degree qualified staff required grows from 9,700 to 17,500.

More detail on the Access Economics modelling can be found in Appendix F, *ECEC workforce modelling of the Regulation Impact Statement for Early Childhood Education and Care Quality Reforms COAG Decision RIS, December 2009* available on the COAG website.