

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1163\_12**

**Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 9**

**Question**

**special childcare benefit is not a capped program**

Ms Taylor: The special childcare benefit is not a capped program. It is a demand driven program. Ms Paul: No. There is no link between how DHS makes its decisions and the expenditure. The expenditure just grows according to the number that are accepted. Senator BACK: Right. Also, in providing that information to me, could you also provide for me please the sort of time frames that it takes for the actual approval of a special childcare benefit.

**Answer**

The Department of Human Services has provided the following response.

The standard processing timeframe for Special Child Care Benefit claims is five working days from date of receipt. If a claim requires further evidence from a child care service provider to enable a decision to be made, the processing time is extended until the further evidence is received by the Department.