

**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. EW1164_12

Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 10

Question

Childcare in rural and regional areas of Australia

Senator BACK: Could focus now with me on rural and regional areas of Australia? I understand from that data that 13 per cent of women are finding themselves in the position of either being unavailable for work or unable to work more hours because there are not places available. It may have referred to non-metropolitan areas or areas outside large regional centres. Can you assist there? And can you take on notice and provide me with information—perhaps on a state by state basis—on whether your comment of there being adequate positions overall is also accurate for rural and regional areas in different states please? Ms Taylor: We will certainly take that on notice. We can look at our vacancy data by state and where those vacancies are. I take your point, and I will take that on notice. Senator BACK: Thank you.

Answer

The *Child Care Vacancies Quarterly Snapshot – June Quarter 2011*, released on 20 January 2012, shows that across Australia 88% of reporting long day care services had vacancies during the reference week of 5 June 2011. Of the 61,620 long day care vacancies each day, 17,800 were in regional and remote Australia.

The State and Territory breakdown by regional and remote Australia is as follows:

Table 1: Long day care services by state/territory and remoteness

| Major cities of Australia | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Australia |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Percent of services reporting | 72% | 74% | 80% | 79% | 81% | | | 75% | 75% |
| Proportion with vacancies | 81% | 91% | 96% | 81% | 88% | | | 88% | 87% |
| Average number of vacancies | 11,190 | 10,890 | 13,490 | 2,600 | 4,760 | | | 880 | 43,820 |
| Percent of places used | 82% | 77% | 74% | 79% | 66% | | | 84% | 77% |
| Inner regional Australia | | | | | | | | | |
| Percent of services reporting | 83% | 86% | 83% | 78% | 87% | 74% | | 100% | 83% |
| Proportion with vacancies | 90% | 92% | 98% | 86% | 98% | 86% | | 100% | 92% |
| Average number of vacancies | 3,520 | 2,460 | 4,040 | 460 | 950 | 560 | | 0 | 11,980 |
| Percent of places used | 79% | 77% | 70% | 70% | 55% | 82% | | 73% | 75% |
| Outer regional Australia | | | | | | | | | |
| Percent of services reporting | 67% | 86% | 83% | 67% | 69% | 88% | 76% | | 78% |
| Proportion with vacancies | 81% | 92% | 95% | 94% | 94% | 96% | 78% | | 91% |
| Average number of vacancies | 580 | 290 | 2,970 | 210 | 520 | 250 | 330 | | 5,150 |
| Percent of places used | 77% | 80% | 72% | 79% | 60% | 76% | 85% | | 75% |
| Remote and very remote Australia | | | | | | | | | |
| Percent of services reporting | 56% | | 65% | 80% | 65% | 80% | 39% | | 62% |
| Proportion with vacancies | 100% | | 94% | 63% | 100% | 100% | 86% | | 92% |
| Average number of vacancies | 90 | | 200 | 40 | 250 | 40 | 60 | | 680 |
| Percent of places used | 52% | | 73% | 90% | 58% | 54% | 85% | | 72% |
| Total | | | | | | | | | |
| Total number of services | 2,491 | 1,146 | 1,362 | 304 | 480 | 113 | 72 | 118 | 6,086 |
| Percent of services reporting | 74% | 76% | 81% | 78% | 80% | 78% | 67% | 75% | 76% |
| Proportion with vacancies | 83% | 92% | 96% | 82% | 90% | 90% | 79% | 88% | 88% |
| Average number of vacancies | 15,390 | 13,640 | 20,690 | 3,310 | 6,480 | 840 | 390 | 890 | 61,620 |
| Percent of places used | 81% | 77% | 73% | 78% | 64% | 80% | 85% | 84% | 77% |

Notes: The totals may not equal the sum of the components due to rounding.

The shaded areas represent categories of remoteness that do not exist for a state or territory.

The full report is available on the Department's website
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Resources/Pages/ChildCareVacanciesQuarterlySnapshot.aspx>.