

**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.** EW1169\_12

**Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 13**

*Senator BACK: Can you tell me then how often the data is updated and what is the mechanism by which the data is updated? Can centres go online and actually input their own vacancies, or is it something that must come through to the department, and a department IT person feeds that information in?*

**Question**

**Mychild website - vacancy information**

Ms Caldwell: Centres report their vacancy data to us and that is updated at least three days a week. We ask them to report on the Friday so that we can have current vacancy information for the Monday. We also do uploads on Wednesday and Friday so that they can provide any updates to us as well. I would need to check whether we do a check on the information provided by services before we load or whether that is fully automated. But certainly the vacancy information is updated very frequently, based on what the services have provided.

**Answer**

Services are required to provide their vacancy information to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), using their child care software. Services have until 8pm local time on the Friday of each reporting week to report and update their vacancy information for the following week. The Mychild website extracts vacancy data from FaHCSIA four times a week (Mon-Thu) and loads the vacancy data automatically as and when it is extracted. When the vacancy data is submitted by the service providers, the Mychild website relies on FaHCSIA's automated application interface for data validity / integrity checks.