

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0981_13

Senator Mason asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 31

Question

Usage of Children and Family Centres

Senator MASON: Let me ask you about that. I suppose there were surveys done or estimates made about the usage that these centres would likely attract? Ms Paul: We are talking about the purposes now, so that is where I was going to— Senator MASON: Forget the purpose for a second. This is about how many people would be attracted to the services of these institutions. Was a survey done? Ms Paul: How many families is what you are saying? Senator MASON: Yes, families, for example. Was data collected about the likely usage of these centres? Ms Taylor: That would be something the states and territories would do, first of all, in determining with the community the location. Senator MASON: I understand all of that. Ms Taylor: But in the original— Senator MASON: It is Commonwealth money going into it. Ms Taylor: It is Commonwealth money. Senator MASON: You must be oversighting what is going on? Ms Taylor: We are oversighting what is going on, and we have a reporting arrangement with the states and territories, and have conversations with them. Going back to the beginning of the national partnership and the identification of the sites, I would have to take on notice exactly what information the states and territories provided, but there would have been a rationale for, for example, choosing Palm Island or Doomadgee or whatever.

Answer

The National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development states that Children and Family Centres are to be established in urban, regional and remote areas with high Indigenous populations and disadvantage.

State and territory governments nominated locations based on these criteria. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) completed an analysis of each proposed location, which included using the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Socio-economic Indicators for Areas and Census 2006 data to identify the Indigenous population and level of disadvantage in the area. DEEWR also used information provided by the state or territory government, including community consultation reports. Locations were then approved by the relevant Commonwealth Minister.