

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0302_14

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Flexibility of Child Care services

Question

1. Are the flexibility trials still open to new families to join?
2. How are the department and the services encouraging new families to participate in the trials?
3. The department has indicated that some trial participants may not utilise all of the funding allocation. How much funding does the department anticipate will be returned?
4. Has the department proposed that any remaining money not spent on the flexibility trials be used to fund another early childhood program or used as an administrative saving?

Answer

1. Yes subject to availability.
2. The promotion of the trials to families is being led by the trial services. Engagement activities include targeted media advertisements, information sessions at local large employers such as hospitals and direct communication with prospective participants (through journal articles, distribution of information packages and other email correspondence).
3. As the trials are still ongoing any funding to be returned to the Department is unknown at this stage.
4. As above.