

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. ED0421_14

Senator Tillem asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 52

Question

Departmental response to a media enquiry on the Child Care Flexibility Trials

Senator TILLEM: Thank you for that. Moving on, there was an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 9 February. Can the department please table information that was provided to the media? Was this a result of a freedom of information request? Ms Wilson : What was it about? Senator LINES: It is the trial of flexible child care. I have got a copy of the release here, but I will need it back. Ms Paul : We are happy to have a look at it. We may simply not be familiar. We may need to take it on notice, but if you want us to look at it we can look at it. Senator LINES: It is the trial of flexible child care. It was a Labor program that carried on, so the childcare officials would know about it. Ms Wilson : Sorry, what was the article? Was it 9 February? Senator TILLEM: 9 February, yes. Senator LINES: Yes, so it talked about the flexibility trial, the very small trial that involved Family Day Care, Goodstart and others to trial outside of hours care and there was an article in the Sunday paper which basically said that that program, in the words of Susan Ley, had 'flopped'. Ms Wilson : Sorry, can I just ask for the question again. I think we have found the article. Senator TILLEM: Was there information provided to the media for that particular article and was there a freedom of information request associated with that? Ms Wilson : We will take it on notice. We provide regular briefings on all of these programs from time to time. I am not sure if this was a request from the media, so we will take that on notice.

Answer

Yes Fairfax Media contacted the media team within the Department on 5 February 2013 with questions relating to the Child Care Flexibility Trial.

There was no freedom of information request in regards to this matter.