

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. ED0429_14

Question

Child care rebate

CHAIR: I am going to get back to Senator Lines or Senator Tillem in a few moments, but I would like to go to the childcare rebate if I may. The previous government paused the indexation of the CCR in 2011, putting a cap of \$7,500 per child. In 2013 the then government announced a three-year extension to the pause with the effect of \$100 million in savings, but it was not legislated. I understand the government currently has legislation before the Senate to extend the pause. Can you tell us when the rebate was first capped at \$7,500? CHAIR: Do you recall whether the department provided a briefing to the then Labor Government on the need to legislate the extension of the cap, given that the government had already had the savings? Mr Cook: We would have to take that on notice.

Answer

In July 2011 the previous government returned the Child Care Rebate annual limit to \$7,500 per child.

The Department of Education can confirm that briefing was provided to the previous government in relation to maintaining the CCR annual limit at \$7,500 per child. The department cannot confirm the details of advice provided to the previous government.