

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW0105_10

Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Releasing reported child care vacancy information

Given the Government, through Minister Gillard, announced on Budget night that, “the remaining 222 (of the planned 260) early learning and care centres will be considered when the child care market is settled and based on the experience of the priority centres, will the Government release childcare vacancy data, to better inform parents on the vacancy rates in the sector?”

Answer

On 6 August 2009 the Government announced that child care services are required to report the number of vacant places for each day of the week based on a new standard definition. Vacancy information had previously been determined by individual child care services, with no common definition making it both difficult for parents to compare availability and impossible to provide meaningful aggregated information on reported child care vacancies.

Vacancy information for specific centres is available to parents through the Child Care Access Hotline and will also be made available on the mychild.gov.au website in the coming months.