

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

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

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW0107_10

Senator Hanson-Young asked in writing

Question

Child Care Industry Taskforce Questions on ABC Learning

I know of an example where a Montessori provider has taken over a ABC centre in South Australia.

- a. Will a Montessori curriculum be implemented?
- b. If so in what time frame (immediate or gradual?)
- c. Will current staff be trained in this mode or will they be replaced?
- d. If they are to be retrained will this be at personal, operator or government cost?
- e. How will this be undertaken without disruption to the staffing of the centre?
- f. Was this aspect (i.e. impact of different curriculum) part of selection criteria process?

Answer

The new operator of ABC Norwood, Adelaide Montessori Pty Ltd has met the selection criteria under PPB's expression of interest to deliver high quality Early Learning and Care programs in a child care setting that will meet the needs of the local community.

ABC Norwood will be held to the same high quality child care service levels as other child care providers.

Of the four employees at ABC Norwood two staff were offered ongoing employment opportunities in the centre and two staff were offered redeployment opportunities with ABC Learning.

Training and curriculum issues are decisions for the new operator. The Government does not bear any costs that may be involved.

The selection criteria for the ABC2 Expression of Interest Process was:

Mandatory Selection Criteria

- Delivery of high quality early learning and care programs in a child care setting which will meet the needs of the local community.
- Demonstration that the organisation has the capacity to successfully manage the operation of early learning and care centres while delivering high quality early learning and care programs.
- Demonstrated need/demand for the proposal within the community.
- Financial viability and sustainability of the proposal.
- Demonstrated ability to meet all requirements of workplace relations and occupational health and safety law.

Desirable Selection Criteria

- Contribution to the diversification of long day care provision in Australia, noting the opportunities this will represent for a diverse range of potential organisations of different size and character and the desirability of having one or more not-for-profit organisations operating at an economic scale.
- Demonstrated commitment to adopt leading-practice employment approaches, as indicated by preparedness to take on accrued employee entitlements of former ABC employees, commitment to training and staff development.