

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0111_11

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

CHILD CARE HOURS - OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE SERVICE

What is the maximum and minimum span of hours for out of school hours care service providers?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations does not request the daily, variable operational opening and closing times of approved Outside School Hours Care services. However, once a service is approved for Child Care Benefit purposes, it must ensure that:

- most of the children to be provided with child care will be attending school;
- it operates on each school day if it provides before or after school care;
- it will be available to provide care for any particular child for at least 8 continuous hours on each normal working day for at least 7 weeks of school holidays in a year, if it provides vacation care,

Any service is at liberty to make its own business decisions in relation to their operations and to deliver services over and above these minimum requirements if deemed viable and appropriate.