

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

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

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0309\_11**

**Senator Payne asked on 2/06/2010, Hansard page 24.**

**Question**

***AVERAGE LEVEL OF DEBT***

Senator PAYNE—I appreciate that. I think that is an important initiative in that regard. What would be the largest individual debt that a centre would owe in terms of the over-advances? Mr Johnson—The average level of debt is around \$11,000 per provider. There is obviously a fairly significant range in that debt level. I would have to take that on notice, but it would reflect the scale of business for individual operators.

**Answer**

The largest individual Child Care Benefit overadvance debt is \$343,947.26. This service agreed to the standard 52 week repayment schedule with the department and commenced repayments on 24 June 2010.