

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0452_12

Senator Nash asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 126.

Question

Child Care - Numbers by State and Sector and Average Costs

Senator NASH: Do you have any kind of breakdown on the number of days a week the child might spend in care, just on average; obviously not in any great detail but just an idea of an average number? Mr Hardy: In general, in long day care, they spend around about 26 hours a week, which is between two and three days; 10 hours has been the full-time care, so on average it is 26 hours in long day care. Senator NASH: In terms of the children in family day care, is it a little more difficult to get those numbers or do you have pretty clear access to those? Ms Taylor: At the September quarter in 2010 there were 108,090 children from 74,110 families in family day care or in-home care. Senator NASH: Is it possible to have that broken down by state and territory? Ms Taylor: Yes. Senator NASH: I am happy for you to take that on notice. Ms Taylor: We have it here, if you like, but I am happy to give it to you on notice. Senator NASH: That is fine. Outside school hours care? How many children? Ms Taylor: Again in the September quarter of 2010 there were 267,530 children and 191,970 families. Senator NASH: I am very happy for you to take this one on notice: I am just interested in the average cost of child care by care type. So across all of those, if you would not mind just taking it on notice and providing the average costs across each of those areas.

Answer

Table 1 shows the number of children using family day care or in-home care or outside school hours care for all states and territories and nationally in the September quarter 2010.

Table 1: Number of children using Family day care or In-home care or Outside school hours care by state and territory: September quarter 2010									
Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Family day care & In-home care	36,980	25,930	22,840	8,210	6,920	5,190	710	1,380	108,090
Outside school hours care	76,060	65,010	64,720	30,290	15,590	6,520	2,970	6,570	267,530

Source: DEEWR CCMS data.

Note: Rows may not add to Australian total as children can use care in more than one state and due to rounding. Also children represented in the above table may use either or both groups of care.

Table 2 shows the number of families using family day care or in-home care or outside school hours care for all states and territories and nationally in the September quarter 2010.

Table 2: Number of families using Family day care or In-home care or Outside school hours care by state and territory: September quarter 2010									
Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Family day care & In-home care	26,740	16,510	15,660	5,080	4,970	3,550	560	1,070	74,110
Outside school hours care	55,430	47,090	45,600	21,050	11,170	4,690	2,210	4,890	191,970

Source: DEEWR CCMS data.

Note: Rows may not add to Australian total as families can use care in more than one state and due to rounding. Also families represented in the above table may use either or both groups of care.

Average cost of child care by care type

The average out of pocket cost of child care (after Australian Government assistance) in the September quarter 2010 for a family on an average income of \$74,100 with one child in:

- **long day care** is approximately \$42 per week (for an average of 26 hours per week in care)
- **family day care** is approximately \$31 per week (for an average of 20 hours per week in care)
- **occasional care** is approximately \$24 per week (for an average of 10 hours per week in care)
- **before school care** is approximately \$8 per week (for an average of five hours per week in care)
- **after school care** is approximately \$15 per week (for an average of 7.5 hours per week in care)
- **vacation care** is approximately \$26 per week (for an average of 27 hours per week in care)