

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 – Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0335_13

Senator Nash asked on 30 May 2012, Hansard page 42

Question

Applications for SCCB

Senator NASH: Has there been any increase in applications for the SCCB over a period of time? Is it fairly static? Ms Caldwell: We would need to take on notice for DHS casework consideration any trend series. There has been some increase in special CCB applications that I am unable to quantify—chiefly because a concerted effort was made, particularly around the government's national framework for the protection of Australian children. There were some measures taken to ensure that those families who were in need of special CCB and those intermediaries and services, including those in the child protection system or assisting children in the child protection system, were fully aware of the availability of special CCB. So we did see an increase over time as we have ensured that stakeholders are well aware of what is available. I am not able to quantify it for you and would have to take on notice what that means in actual numbers. Ms Taylor: The other thing is that special childcare benefit was made available for victims of the Queensland floods and also the Victorian bushfires, so you will also see special circumstances in the numbers as well. But we will take that on notice.

Answer

To receive Special Child Care Benefit a family and/or a child must meet eligibility criteria. The number of children who have benefited from Special Child Care Benefit increased during the 2010-11 financial year (the latest data available) from 7,890 children in June 2010 to 11,910 children in June 2011.