

**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. EW0339_13

Senator Nash asked on 30 May 2012, Hansard page 43

Question

ISS Carers

Senator NASH: With the ISS carers, is there any sort of sense of how long the average duration is that that carer might be assigned to a child? Is that the sort of data you might hold? Ms Stanion: I can take on notice what sort of information we can get for you.

Answer

Inclusion Support Subsidy (ISS) is not assigned to a child. It is paid to:

- centre based services to assist with the costs of employing an additional educator to increase the staff-to-child ratio when a child or children with ongoing high support needs are in care.
- home based carers as an additional payment in recognition of the additional care and attention required by children with ongoing high support needs in their care and the impact of this on the carer.

Under the Inclusion and Professional Support Program Guidelines, ISS can be approved for up to six months from the start date for eligible children undergoing continuous assessment and up to 12 months for a child with diagnosed disability or a child from a refugee or humanitarian intervention background.

The approval period for school aged children will depend on the care type, for example vacation care and care during school terms.