

**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. EW0350_13

Senator Edwards asked on 30 May 2012, Hansard page 51

Question

Failing to Claim Rebate

Senator EDWARDS: I will table this news article for your benefit. It refers to an article in the Adelaide Advertiser on 2 March that estimated 6,000 South Australian families, one in 10 who use approved childcare centres, are failing to claim their rebates, potentially costing them up to 7½ thousand dollars a year. Have these figures improved in each of the 11 South Australian electorates across the board, or across South Australia? For the long-day care, the family day care and the vacation care, before any after school—the three sections. Ms Paul: Can you just repeat the sentence? Senator EDWARDS: Have these figures improved for the three categories of care? Ms Taylor: I think we might have to take that on notice, if we can.

Answer

The figures mentioned in this media article are based on data extracted from the Child Care Management System on informal enrolments, including children recorded as using approved care for whom no Child Care Benefit application has been submitted.

The data extract does not enable a breakdown of this information by electorate by care type over time.

The purpose of this media article was to raise awareness of the availability of the Child Care Rebate and to encourage families to test their eligibility for the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate. For the January-March 2012 quarterly period, data provided by the Department of Human Services shows that the total number of new Child Care Benefit claims was 62 722, a 5.6 per cent increase from 59 185 for the March 2011 quarter. New online Child Care Benefit claims significantly increased for the same period, from 870 to 5150.