

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

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

**Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0372\_13**

**Senator Nash asked on 29 June 2012 , Hansard page 76**

**Question**

**ICPA estimates**

Also, the ICPA estimates that only about 200 families would be affected by an extension of the program to the four-year-olds. Obviously, it will make a great deal of difference to them if this could be accommodated. I estimate from the fact that there are only 200 families that the cost would be quite small. I am happy for you to take this on notice: would you mind giving me an estimate of the cost of inclusion of those four-year-olds in the program?

**Answer**

The Australian Government believes there would be significantly more than 200 four year old students who may be eligible to receive assistance if the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme was extended. This proposal is not supported at this time in light of current work that will improve access to preschool programs for rural and regional areas; both through the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education and the Review of Funding for Schooling.