

**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. EW0348_13

Senator Nash asked on 30 May 2012, Hansard page 50

Question

Families not Claiming Rebate

Senator NASH: Okay. There is just a specific issue that came up in the Adelaide Advertiser. You cannot always trust what you read in the media, but it is interesting to be aware of it. In early March—I think it was 2 March—it said that an estimated 6,000 families in South Australia were not claiming their rebates. Do you have the figures across long day care, family day care, vacation care, before and after school care, particularly in South Australia, on how many families are actually not claiming the rebate? Do you draw down into that much detail? Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice, because you would look at the number of families and the number of children in South Australia as a total population. You would look at those that were claiming benefit currently. You would be able to look at it and make an estimation of the numbers who are on income support and the numbers according to their income. Again, that is based a lot on ABS and the census, which now, of course, is getting a little bit dated. But I will take on notice whether we have that analysis to that degree of granularity currently.

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. A breakdown by of these children by care type is not available.

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.