

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM 44

Asked By: Senator Barnett

Topic: Active After-school Community (AASC) Program - Participation Numbers

Type of Question: Hansard, page 118, 18 October 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

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Senator BARNETT-Minister, where did you get the figure of 150,000 children?

Mr Miller-The figure that is oft referred to in terms of the program is around 150,000. That is an average. It is the first time I have heard the figure of 190,000. That is not to say it is wrong, but the normal benchmark for the program is around 150,000 kids.

Senator BARNETT-We would like to know which figure we should be using. I am a champion for this program. I would like to know how many students it is benefiting around Australia. Which figure should I use: 192,000, which is on the record tonight, or the minister's figure of 150,000? What figure would you like us to use, Mr Miller?

Mr Miller-I am happy to get you the term-by-term numbers. The 'around 150,000' is the minimum. It has grown to 192,000 in semester 2.

Senator BARNETT-This year or last year?

Ms Donaldson-For 2009.

Senator BARNETT-What about this year? What are the latest figures?

Ms Donaldson-We will have the data for semester 1 this year within the next fortnight.

Senator BARNETT-And you will release those publicly?

Ms Donaldson-We can make that available, yes.

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Answer:

The AASC program sets a target of an average of approximately 45 students participating per school/ out of school hours care services, which equates to 150,000 children.

The program obtains the actual statistics for any given semester (which includes two terms), in around May and November of each year for the semester prior. These statistics reflect the total number of individual children that participated across the two terms (they do not double count children).

As the program does not obtain the data until after the semester concludes, a report on statistics for participation numbers within a current term or semester is not able to be generated. In these circumstances the program references an estimated 150,000 participants.

In Semester 2, 2009, approximately 192,000 children participated (based on 99.2% of data returned). In Semester 1, 2010, approximately 186,000 children participated (based on 96.2% of data returned, this data is still to be finalised and as such the number may increase slightly).