

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.4 Support for Child Care System Question No: SQ15-000463

Topic: Work, study and training test

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

- 1 - How will the definition of the work, study, training test in the costed model for the new Child Care Subsidy differ from the current test for CCB?
- 2 - Are there any changes to the definition of a work-related commitment?
- 3 - Under the current CCB test, there is a list of 'other ways' to satisfy the test – will all of these other ways to satisfy the test remain? In particular, will parents continue to be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy when they are on paid or unpaid parental leave? Carer or sick leave? Receiving Carer Payment? Or when caring for a person with disability?
- 4 - For the categories of 'other' ways to satisfy the Work, Study, Training test, which cannot be associated with a number of hours of activity – such as unpaid parental leave, receiving Carer Payment or caring for a person with disability – how many hours of subsidised child care per fortnight will the parents be eligible for under the new Child Care Subsidy? Will they be eligible for 100 hours of subsidised care per fortnight?
- 5 - What types of volunteering and travel will be eligible under the new work study and training test? And what types will be ineligible?
- 6 - How will the department check whether people are volunteering or travelling as required by the guidelines?
- 7 - How many children and families will lose access to subsidised child care, or have their level of access reduced, as a result of changes to the work, study, training test for the new Child Care Subsidy?

Answer:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - The current work, study, training test will be strengthened to clearly link workforce participation to eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy. A broad range of activities will meet the new activity test requirement and these are currently being considered through consultation on the Regulation Impact Statement.

6 – To minimise unnecessary regulatory burden, families will continue to self-declare the number of hours they participate in recognised activities to determine the amount of subsidised child care they will receive. A new compliance framework will involve targeted and random spot checks to ensure they are complying with the requirements of the activity test.

7 – Refer to QoN SQ15-000461