

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000072

Senator Lines, Sue asked on 05 March 2015, Hansard page 6

Preschool attendance rates

Question

Senator LINES: Which are the Commonwealth's anyway. Over the forwards, how much would it cost to achieve an effective attendance rate at 15 hours of quality preschool right across the country so that attendance was in line with attendance at the first year of school? And, if you have got that number, can it be broken down by state?

Ms Paul: I do not think we have that number. The question is quite complex. We will get it from the record and we will have to take it on notice.

Senator LINES: Over the forwards, how much would it cost to achieve an effective attendance rate at 15 hours of quality preschool right across the country?

Ms Paul: How long would it take to achieve 15 hours—is that what you are saying?

Senator LINES: No, how much would it cost?

Senator Ryan: At the school attendance rate—

Senator LINES: Yes.

Senator Ryan: if that was below 95 per cent, less than 95 per cent?

Ms Paul: Yes.

Senator LINES: If you have got that, if you can show us by state.

Ms Paul: I suspect we do not have it; we will take it on notice and see what it would take to work it out.

Senator LINES: Thank you.

Answer

The department does not collect information on attendance rates in the first year of schooling and therefore cannot undertake the cost estimation requested.