

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001160

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Child care model - overall cost neutral approach

Question

In relation to Senator Birmingham's comments that the Government could "take some of the costs off the childcare model so we come up with an overall neutral approach" (The Guardian, 19 October 2016):

- (a) How much would have to be saved to make the approach neutral?
- (b) Has the Department modelled or scoped in any way, any possible changes to the child care changes before the Parliament?
- (c) What possible savings have been modelled?
- (d) When was that work done?
- (e) Who asked for that work to be done? Or did it originate from the Department?
- (f) Has that work been provided to anyone? Anyone on the crossbench? Anyone external to the Minister and the Department – e.g. in the sector? Who? On what dates?
- (g) If they went ahead, would the proposed savings require any changes to legislation?
- (h) What changes have been made to the child care policy since it was first announced by Scott Morrison? How much has each saved?

Answer

(a) – (g) The Department of Education and Training has run many models during the development of the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package (the Package). These are deliberative documents for Government.

(h) In relation to changes made to child care policy since the Package was announced in the 2015-16 Budget, please refer to pages 156 and 158 of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) 2015–16:

http://budget.gov.au/2015-16/content/myefo/download/MYEFO_2015-16_Final.pdf.

Please also refer to the Budget 2016–17 announcement regarding the deferred implementation timeframe of the Package, and changes to the Interim Home Based Carer Subsidy Pilot Programme at page 78 of Budget Paper 2:

http://budget.gov.au/2016-17/content/bp2/download/BP2_consolidated.pdf.