

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. SQ16-001167

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Sector consultation

Question

In relation to sector consultation:

(a) Are any sector peak groups recognised by the Department? What annual funding is provided by the Department to support peak group functions? Which organisations is it provided to?

(b) Have any peak groups been recognised by the Department in the last 10 years? Which groups were they and what funding was provided in each year to support their peak function?

Answer

The Ministerial Advisory Council for Child Care and Early Learning (MAC) and the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) were established in 2014 and are consultative bodies through which early learning and care sector organisations are consulted.

MAC membership includes representatives from: Australian Childcare Alliance, Early Childhood Australia, Lady Gowrie Tasmania, National Association of Mobile Services for Rural and Remote Families and Children, Queensland Children's Activity Network, KU Children's Services, Australian Community Children's Services, Family Day Care Australia and NSW Family Day Care Association. The expenditure for MAC meetings held from 2014 to date totals \$79,250.63 (GST incl.). MAC has met eight times.

SRG membership includes representatives from: Child Care Association of WA, the Australian Nanny Association, Youth and Early Childhood, Wodonga City Council, MacDonnell Regional Council, Mersey Leven Child Care Services, and Oorama Education and Total Childcare Solutions Australia. The expenditure for SRG meetings held from 2014 to date totals \$26,233.52 (GST incl.). SRG has met five times.

Between July 2011 and June 2014, the department funded Early Childhood Australia for national secretariat support. The funding totalled \$1,032,089.30 (GST incl.).

Between October 2012 and June 2013, the department funded Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) – National Voice for our Children, to support employment of an early childhood education and care policy officer to engage with the sector regarding issues relating to early learning and care for Indigenous children and families. The funding totalled \$115,500 (GST incl.).

The Department of Education and Training also regularly meets with a range of other peak organisations, individual providers and other stakeholders as needed, as part of ongoing consultation processes.