

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0795_11

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

CLOSURES OF IHC DURING THE LIFE OF THE PROGRAM FROM 2001

Have there been any closures of IHC during the life of the program from 2001? How many services have closed and how many have been placed in alternative services? Have all families who used these services been placed in alternative services? Have these families been disadvantaged by the closures? Are there IHC services that were not re-allocated resulting from these closed services? How many places have not been allocated? Can the Department provide a breakdown of places on a state by state basis?

Answer

There have been closures of In Home Care services since the start of the In Home Care program in 2001. The Department's records of the program however are only available from the time the Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care was established in DEEWR in 2008. Data available to the Department indicates that there were 72 In Home Care services operating in the 2007-08 financial year. There are currently 69 In Home Care services in operation.

The Department does not collect data on the care arrangements for children when In Home Care services close. As In Home Care is based in the child's home however, the care is not restricted by the location of the In Home Care service and the family may continue to receive In Home Care from a different In Home Care provider, or the children may transition to centre based care.

In Home Care places are returned to the Department when a service closes. Places are allocated to providers from time to time as sufficient places become available to conduct cost effective national allocation rounds. The following table sets out the allocation for In Home Care places by State as at 30 June 2009

State/Territory	Allocated Places
New South Wales	1545
Victoria	828
Queensland	1385
Western Australia	580
South Australia	166
Tasmania	255
Australian Capital Territory	35
Northern Territory	82
TOTAL	4876