

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

DEEWR Question No. EW1190_12

Senator Mason asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 41

Question

Childcare centre - Snugglepot Day Care Centre in Taree

Senator MASON: Who made the decision? Ms Paul: I am not sure whether it was the department or the minister. I would have to take that on notice. It would have been one or the other. Senator MASON: Can you take on notice when the decision was made and who by? Ms Paul: Sure.

Senator MASON: In terms of financial management, could you also take on notice what precise governance—it does sounds like that and I accept that, but precisely what it involved? Mr Manthorpe: Sure.

Senator MASON: How would it have come about that this became an issue? Would the centre have contacted the department? How would the issue have percolated up to the department or indeed the minister to decide to provide this? How would the information have got out that there was this governance issue? Mr Manthorpe: I could imagine that the service may have contacted the department, but I am speculating. Ms Paul: We can add it to the question on notice, because it will not be hard to find out. It could have been through our state office. Our state office staff are in regular contact with providers and so on. I imagine we can pin it down.

Answer

The decision to engage a financial management advisor was made by the Department in August 2011.

The financial management advisor works with the service provider to firstly understand their business practices. Once informed, the advisor then makes recommendations on how the service might enhance its administration and/or governance arrangements with a view to ensuring financial sustainability.

The decision to engage a financial management advisor was taken following the service approaching the Department seeking additional ongoing financial support.