

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0973_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 23

Question

Inclusion Support Funding

Senator NASH: I accept that is hypothetical. I have a number of questions, so I might actually have to start going through these reasonably quickly. How many claims were funded in the last financial year for inclusion support funding? Mr De Silva: I will have to take on notice the actual total number. Senator NASH: That would be great. Also, then, I assume, any of the claims that were deemed ineligible, if you could do that as well? Do you have the expenditure for the last financial year for ISF with you? Mr De Silva: I will take on notice the expenditure for the last financial year. The budget for this year for ISF is \$60 million.

Answer

On 3 October 2011 the ISS online applications and claims system went live. The number of claims processed between October 2011 and 30 June 2012 shows that was in excess of 130 000. ISS expenditure for the 2011-2012 financial year was over \$34 million.

The National Inclusion Support Subsidy Provider is responsible for processing applications for ISS, including determining eligibility. Eligible early childhood education and care services can only claim against an approved ISS application when the child attends the service and an additional educator has been employed. Once these criteria have been met, services submit their claims for ISS. There are no claims that were deemed ineligible against approved applications.