

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0422_14

Senator Collins asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 55

Question

Cost of the extra hours of child care offered in the Child Care Flexibility Trials

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: If you are extending it, is it by an hour or is it by a block of three? How does it work? Mr Cook: Some of these will be opening until 10 at night. Some are looking at weekends. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Yes, but what I am trying to understand is, if you decide to go past traditional hours, are you having to purchase a block until 10— Mr Cook: I see. Senator JACINTA COLLINS: or are you able to purchase one hour? Ms Wilson: We will need to take that on notice because there are probably different answers for different models, because the family day care was focused for police and for nurses. That was deliberately made flexible. One of the issues there was because of roster changes, and in trying to be responsive to roster changes it was very hard for family day care workers to predict what sort of workload they would have. Although they were keen to participate in the trial, the roster changes in particular for those two groups of people wanting care became very complex to keep up and match the hours.

Answer

The trials are being conducted through family day care, long day care and the out of school hours care sectors. As such, each of the different projects has a different fee and session structure which are consistent with the standard charging practices used in the relevant sector. For example, the Family Day Care Australia trial is largely based on four and eight hours blocks of care for standard hours, while the two vacation care trials charge on the basis of a single or multiple day programme.