

**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. ED0430\_14**

**Question**

***Child care fees***

Senator LINES: The assistant minister was asked in question time on 13 February this year by the member for Corangamite, 'Will the minister outline what action the government is taking to reduce childcare fees and how will the department calculate the reduction in childcare fees? What will the measure be? Will it be based on hourly rates, daily rates or a weekly rate?' Ms Ley responded by saying, 'We have a plan.' What is that plan, particularly given that in a previous question you said the department had no impact on the market price charged by the sector? Ms Paul: I actually would not mind looking back to the full question time transcript. It is always important to get the full context. So I will, in effect, take it on notice if I need to because I do not have that in front of me.

**Answer**

The Government's plan as indicated by the Assistant Minister for Education in question time on 13 February 2014 includes commissioning the Productivity Commission to inquire into future options for child care and early childhood learning, with a focus on developing a system that supports modern families' working circumstances and addresses children's learning and development needs.

The Government moved quickly to task the Productivity Commission with this broad-ranging Inquiry into child care and how it can be made more affordable, flexible and accessible.

The Government is also working with State and Territory Governments to address unnecessary red tape burden on services which is passed on as cost increases to parents.