SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW0308_10

Senator Payne asked on 3 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 10.

Question

Early Learning and Care Centres - Roll out

What is the sequencing that is being seen in relation to the roll out of the new early learning and care centres?

Answer

The Department has observed the following general sequence for the implementation of the priority 38 Early Learning and Care Centres (ELCCs): site identification, application and award process, construction and operational activity.

Information regarding site identification is set out in the program guidelines (page 2) available at <u>www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood</u>. The guidelines state that the Department will work with the state and territory governments to deliver the centres in the first instance. State and territory governments have been asked to identify suitable sites for the centres and invited to undertake the construction of the centres and provider selection process, within the parameters set by the Australian Government.

There is flexibility as to the application and award processes used by state and territory governments to select the providers for the construction and operation of the centres. For example, some states and territories have combined the construction and operation of the centres into one application process. Others have elected to separate the construction and operation and operation and requirements set out in the funding agreement between it and the Australian Government.

Where the relevant state or territory government elects not to manage the construction, an open and competitive application process, managed by the Australian Government, will be advertised.

To date, arrangements for 30 of the 38 new (ELCCs) in priority locations have been announced. Details of these arrangements are available from the Department's website also at <u>www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood</u>.