

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

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

Outcome 1 – Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0261_13

Senator Nash asked on 29 June 2012 , Hansard page 52

Question

Estimator tool

Senator EDWARDS: How much has been spent on the estimator tool? Mr Kimber: I think that goes back a couple of budgets ago. It was not this year's budget decision. I would have to take it on notice to let you know exactly how much. Sorry, I do not have that detail. Senator EDWARDS: How do you measure the benefit there? Mr Kimber: I think we have already discussed them. Hits on the MyChild site, which is a key link to it, have gone up quite substantially over the last four years. The major piece of information that is sourced from the MyChild website, or one of them, is about the childcare rebate and government assistance for child care. Ms Taylor: We said that over a four-year period usage of the MyChild website has gone up from something like 45,000 unique hits to around 660,000 unique hits in a short period of time. The most popular thing accessed on there is information about childcare rebate, which also includes the estimator. So we could probably tell you the number of unique hits on the estimator itself, and we are happy to get that for you.

Answer

The 2009-10 Budget Ministerial Statement ***Jobs, Productivity and Fairness – A Foundation for Recovery*** stated: "The Government will invest a total of \$2.5 million over the next four years to introduce a child care estimator which will allow families to estimate the dollar value of their entitlements, as well as their out of pocket child care costs."

Usage data provided by the Department of Human Services indicates that 150 303 estimates were initiated using the Child Care Estimator tool in 2011.