

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

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

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0200_14

Senator Bilyk asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 41

Question

Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit, and approved child care services

[a. Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit]

Senator BILYK: Thanks. Can someone tell me how much the department's budget for the childcare rebate and childcare benefit over the forward estimates is? Mr Maynard: Over the forward estimates, the childcare benefit would be \$11 billion. For the childcare rebate, it would be \$11.1 billion. Senator BILYK: You might need to take this on notice: are you able to do a comparison for that compared to the forward estimates in the last budget? Ms Taylor: We will take that on notice. There has been growth, though, over the forward estimates. Sorry—I can probably give it to you now. Senator BILYK: Okay. Ms Taylor: In childcare benefit there has been a 4.2 per cent increase in outlays from 2012-13 to 13-14; in dollar terms that is \$106.2 million. In childcare rebate there has been a 13.2 per cent increase in outlays, that is \$281.005 million. Mr Maynard: That is the rate of increase between the two financial years, but we will need to take a notice your question in relation to out years from the last budget. Senator BILYK: I understand the number of children receiving childcare services in Australia is now over 1 million, is that correct? Ms Taylor: Yes. From the September quarter 2012 there were 1,030,970 children. Senator BILYK: September 2012 is the most recent childcare update, is it? Ms Taylor: Yes, it is. That is an increase of 3.9 per cent over the year. Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me the growth in the number of children accessing child care over the past three years? Ms Taylor: I can do five years. Mr Maynard: I can do three years. In September 2012, as Ms Taylor just said, 1,030,970. In September 2009 it was 871,110, so the rate of growth over three years is 18.4 per cent. Senator BILYK: Presumably that means more families are actually accessing child care over that period. Are you able to tell me the increase in the families? Mr Maynard: Certainly: over the same period: in September 2009 there was 624,640 families and in September 2012 there were 726,130 families, an increase of 16.2 per cent.

[b. Approved child care services]

Senator BILYK: Another presumption is that there is actually more childcare services available. Do we have any numbers on how many more approved childcare services there actually are? Mr Maynard: Over the same period? Senator BILYK: Yes, if you could. Mr Maynard: Certainly. In September 2009 there were 13,638 approved childcare services in operation. In September 2012 there were 15,147 childcare services in operation, which is an increase of 11.1 per cent. Senator BILYK: Do you have a breakdown by care type? Mr Maynard: I have a breakdown at September 2012. Of the 15,147 approved childcare services: for long day care would be 6,192

services; for family day care 392; for in-home care 68; for occasional care 82; and for outside school hours care a total of 8,413 approved childcare services. Ms Taylor: We have the change over one year but not over the three, so we will take that on notice if you like.

Answer

a. Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit

As per the 2012–13 Budget, the financial outlays for the Child Care Benefit were estimated to be \$10.3 billion and for the Child Care Rebate were estimated to be \$9.6 billion over the forward estimates period from 2012–13 to 2015–16.

As per the 2013–14 Budget, the financial outlays for the Child Care Benefit were estimated to be \$11.0 billion and for the Child Care Rebate were estimated to be \$11.1 billion over the forward estimates period from 2013–14 to 2016–17.

b. Approved child care services

Table 1 provides a breakdown by service type of the number of Child Care Benefit approved services between September quarter 2009 and September quarter 2012.

Table 1: Number of approved services September quarter 2009 and September quarter 2012

Service type	September quarter 2009	September quarter 2012	Change	Change
			Number	Per cent
Long day care	5,759	6,192	433	7.5%
Family day care & In-home care	379	460	81	21.4%
Occasional care	91	82	-9	-9.9%
Outside school hours care	7,410	8,413	1,003	13.5%
Total	13,638	15,147	1,509	11.1%

Source: DEEWR administrative data.