

**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. EW0205_14

Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 45

Question

Early Years Quality Fund - distribution

Senator CASH: Given that the Early Years Quality Fund is going to be distributed by a grant process and childcare centres will have to apply for the funding, did the minister's office seek advice from the department in relation to the sharing of the fund equally amongst workers? Ms Paul: I will not go to the nature of— Senator CASH: I do not want you to go to the nature of the bias. I am asking whether or not the minister's office sought that advice from the department. Ms Paul: We can answer that in a general sense but I will not answer about whether it was across the workforce. Yes, we did provide advice. Senator CASH: Of the nature— Ms Paul: I am not answering that question. Senator CASH: But they could have sought advice on what colour the sky is today. I am asking whether the minister's office sought advice from the department on the sharing of funding equally among staff, as opposed to the formula that has now been decided. I am asking you about the nature of the advice, not whether instruction was given. Ms Paul: We did advise on the form and options to the fund—that is probably as far as I would go. Senator CASH: In relation to the distribution of the money? Ms Paul: I would have to take that piece on notice. Because it was a budget matter we will not be able to say precisely what options were canvassed. What we can tell you is whether we provided advice on options. The answer is yes.

Answer

The Department prepared a range of advice concerning how grant funds could be distributed.