

**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. EW0212_14

Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 53

Question

Budget based funded child care services

Senator CASH: Going to the column underneath 'budget based funding programs', how many children are cared for in the 342 budget based funded services? Ms Taylor: I was about to say that I will take it on notice, but we might have that. Mr De Silva: There are approximately 9,500 children who attend on a weekly basis, on average. Senator CASH: I also note that the minister recently announced ongoing funding for the budget based services. Is that in essence a contract extension? Mr De Silva: Yes. Funding is done on a 12-month basis. It was announced a few weeks ago that the funding will continue for 2013-14. Senator CASH: Okay. Does this extension preclude new providers from commencing? Mr De Silva: It is a capped program, so there is a finite amount of funds. There are 342 operating this financial year. It is expected that there will be 344 in the next financial year. The extra two are two BBS that had closed that we are hoping will re-open with new providers. Senator CASH: I also understand that there was a slight increase in fees for the extension period. Is that correct? Mr De Silva: In funding or in fees? Senator CASH: In fees? Mr De Silva: I will need to take that on notice. Senator CASH: If there was a slight increase in fees for the extension period, could you also take on notice how the increase was calculated. Mr De Silva: I will take that on notice.

Answer

Individual early childhood education and care services funded under the Budget Based Funded program may determine any fees charged for the services provided. Fees are not part of the funding provided by the Department for provision of services.