

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0869\_12**

**Senator Back asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 111**

**Question**

**Universal Access**

**Average number of hours of preschool for four year olds**

Senator BACK: I want to ask a question on universal access, the intention of then Prime Minister Rudd, I think, for every four-year-old to have access to 15 hours a week of preschool by 2013. Can you tell us whether you have current figures for the average hours of preschool for four-year-olds? If you cannot give that to us now on notice, could you do it by state and territory, please? Ms Taylor: Yes, I can do that. At the moment in the 2010 reported performance Victoria has 12.8 hours, 16.1 if you include long day care; Queensland— Ms Hosking: Fifty-five per cent of children who are in preschool are receiving the 15 hours per week, which was the target. Senator BACK: Fifty-five per cent are? Ms Hosking: That is right, and 17 hours is the average.

**Number of additional places needed to meet the universal access commitment**

Senator BACK: Therefore, to meet the 2013 objective the question then becomes: how many additional preschool places will be needed? Again, if you would, provide that to us on notice broken down by state and territory as to where the additional challenge lies, please. Can you do that notice? Ms Taylor: We can do that on notice.

**Answer**

**Average number of hours of preschool for four year olds**

Table 1 indicates state and territory reported hours delivered per week.

*Table 1* 2010 reported average number of hours of preschool

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
Average hours per week attendance	13.39	16.1	17	12	12.2	12.8	13.5	13.9

The data in this table were provided by state and territory governments as part of their 2010 Annual Reports under the National Partnership. Relevant notes to the data were also provided and published with the Annual Reports at [www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy\\_Agenda/ECUA/Pages/annualreports.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/ECUA/Pages/annualreports.aspx).

**Number of additional places needed to meet the universal access commitment**

As required in the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education, States and Territories report on enrolment under the performance indicator “The proportion of children who are enrolled in (and attending, where possible to measure) a preschool program”. There is no requirement to report on places. The most recent data are at Table 2. All jurisdictions are aiming for an enrolment rate of 95 per cent or higher, by 2013.

*Table 2* The proportion of children reportedly enrolled in a preschool program

	<b>2010 reported performance (%)</b>
<b>NSW</b>	86.2
<b>VIC</b>	99.9
<b>QLD</b>	40
<b>WA</b>	97.5
<b>SA</b>	87.7
<b>TAS</b>	97
<b>ACT</b>	95.4
<b>NT</b>	88.4

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