

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0086_14ED0086_14
Senator Hanson-Young provided in writing.

Question

Early Years Quality Fund

1. How many centres were expected to receive the funding from the Early Years Quality Fund?
2. How many contracts have been signed?
3. Will the Government be honouring these contracts?
4. What is the cost associated with these contracts?
5. As the Government has halted all payments, how many centres who were expecting to receive funding will be affected?
6. How much money is remaining from the allocated \$300 million, taking into consideration the contracts that have already been signed and the funds allocated to these centres?
7. Is it correct that this money is tied to long day care only?
8. How will the additional money be re-purposed?
9. There is review currently being undertaken by the Government of the EYQF, this was due to report at the end of October, when do we expect to see this report?
10. Are there any preliminary findings available, particularly in relation as to how this money will be used to address the current wage issues?

Answer

1. 453 long day care providers representing 1257 services received letters of conditional offer under the Early Years Quality Fund.
2. 16.
3. On 10 December 2013, the Government released the report of the review into the Early Years Quality Fund. It announced that funds payable under the contracts would be honoured and that a new professional development programme to assist all educators in the Long Day Care sector would be established.
4. The amount payable under the contracts is \$62.5 million.
5. Refer to the response to Question 3.
6. No grants funding has been paid.
7. The *Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Act 2013* specifies that the funding can only be provided to approved long day care services.
8. The Government announced the establishment of a new professional development programme to assist all educators in Long Day Care on 10 December 2013.
9. The Government released the report of the review into the Early Years Quality Fund on 10 December 2013.
10. Refer to the response for Question 3.