

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. ED0143_14ED0143_14
Senator Ruston provided in writing.**

Question

The Early Years Quality Fund (EYQF) required Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

1. I understand access to the EYQF required an EBA to be in place – Can the department please explain why an enterprise agreement was a requirement to be eligible for the fund?
2. Were other options considered?
3. How did this impact services which did not have an EBA?
4. Was this just a union recruitment drive?

Answer

1. The requirement to have an enterprise agreement as a condition of funding was a decision of the former government. The policy intent was to ensure employees had a right to enforce wage increases.
2. Yes.
3. Services without an enterprise agreement at the time of application could be conditionally approved pending approval of an enterprise agreement by the Fair Work Commission (FWC). Services that did not meet the condition of funding to have an enterprise agreement would be ineligible to receive grant funds.
4. The department cannot comment.