

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.4 Support for Child Care System **Question No: SQ15-000221**

Topic: Child Care

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

These questions also relate to a story by Samantha Maiden that appeared in The Sunday Telegraph on 1 February 2015, titled Childcare rebate scheme is failing, with big business facing 1.5 per cent tax levy to pay for reform, the story said:

"Treasury has also considered a daily cap on the childcare rebate that would hit centres charging high fees. It would deliver a price signal to high income families using childcare that costs over \$100-a-day forcing them to pay more."

1) Has the Department asked, or done any work with, Treasury on a \$100-a-day subsidy? Has any work been done by the Government to model a \$100-a-day subsidy, or alternative rates of subsidy? If so, please provide a copy of this work.

The story also says:

"But Mr Morrison has poured cold water on a single, means tested payment that would combine the childcare rebate and the childcare benefit. This was a key recommendation of the Productivity Commission's draft report into childcare reform."

1) Has the Minister ruled out combining the Child Care Rebate, Child Care Benefit and other payments into a single subsidy? If so, why?

2) Is this assertion wrong?

3) Did the Minister or his office provide information to the journalist that led to the assertion that the Government would not introduce a single, means-tested payment to replace CCR and CCB? If so, what information was provided, by whom, and on what date?

Answer:

The Government is not ruling in or ruling out any of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, but is considering them all in conjunction with the development of the new Families' Package.