

Topic: Child care safety net

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

With reference to the proposed child care safety net:

- 1 - What assistance will be provided to families experiencing temporary financial hardship?
- 2 - Will it be a percentage of the benchmark price? In dollar terms, what will the value of the assistance be?
- 3 - How will families be determined to be eligible?
- 4 - How many families and children in each year are expected to benefit from this program? How does this compare to the number that would benefit from Special Child Care Benefit Financial Hardship?
- 5 - Will the overall funding for this new program in 2017-18 be more or less than the expected expenditure on Special Child Care Benefit Financial Hardship in 2016-17?
- 6 - Who will decide if families are eligible and for how many weeks at a time will additional assistance be provided?

Answer:

- 1 - The Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) is a top up to the Child Care Subsidy and will provide additional assistance (up to 120 per cent of the hourly fee cap) for families experiencing temporary financial hardship.
- 2 - Refer to question 1.
- 3 - The Department is consulting on eligibility through the Regulation Impact Statement process.
- 4 - It is expected that approximately 150,000 families and 210,000 children per year will be assisted through the ACCS. As the ACCS and Special Child Care Benefit are different programmes they are not directly comparable.
- 5 - As the ACCS and Special Child Care Benefit are different programmes their budgets are not directly comparable.
- 6 - The Department is consulting on eligibility through the Regulation Impact Statement process.