

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.4 Support for Child Care System Question No: SQ15-000455

Topic: Workforce Participation - calculation

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

With reference to the Minister's media release announcing the child care changes on 10 May 2015. The media release states:

"It is estimated the new measures will encourage more than 240,000 families to increase their involvement in paid employment, including almost 38,000 jobless families."

- 1 - How did the Government determine those figures?
- 2 - Did the Department calculate these figures? Or another agency? Or the Minister's office?
- 3 - Was this the standard process used to predict changes in workforce participation? Have these numbers been endorsed by Treasury or Prime Minister and Cabinet?
- 4 - Why did the Department conduct a survey rather than use an established model to predict these changes?
- 5 - What employment data did the Department use to determine the current level employment among parents currently in in the Government's child care system?
- 6 - What, if any, employment data among child care subsidy recipients does the Department collect and hold?

Answer:

1. The figures were derived from research conducted by ORIMA extrapolated to a national level using ABS census data.
2. The Department calculated these figures.
3. There is no standard process to predict changes in workforce participation as a result of policy changes. The Government has endorsed the numbers provided in the Minister's media release.
4. The survey allowed the findings from the qualitative work to be quantified in a broader group and provided a broader sense of whether the findings held true with a broader population base.
5. The Department uses data from the 2012 Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey on work hours to estimate the minimum weekly hours worked.
6. The Department holds data on whether families are meeting the CCB and CCR activity tests.