

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: SQ15-000780

Topic: Child Care System

Hansard page: CA022, 5 June 2015

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

Taking into account the first-round impact of changes to the childcare system, how many families and children who currently receive assistance will not have access to the childcare subsidy as a result of the new activity test? Can the department break this overall figure down by income in bands of \$10,000 by state and electorate?

Answer:

The Child Care Subsidy is designed to provide assistance with the cost of child care for parents engaged in work, training or study or other recognised activity. Families who undertake at least four hours of activity per week will be eligible for up to 18 hours of subsidised child care per week. This will assist those returning to work in a graduated manner. Parents who do more than eight hours of activity per week will be eligible for up to 36 hours of subsidised child care per week; and once parents do more than 24 hours per week they will be eligible for up to 50 hours of subsidised care per week.

Under the Child Care Safety Net, families on incomes less than around \$65,000 in 2017-18 who do not meet the activity test will have 85 percent of the actual fee covered up to the fee cap for up to 24 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.