Outcome Number: 2.5 Child Care Benefit   **Question No: SQ15-000426**

Topic: Programmes for vulnerable and disadvantaged children

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

For each of the following programs:
a. Grandparents CCB
b. Special CCB Children at Risk
c. Special CCB Financial Hardship
d. JETCCFA
e. Inclusion and Professional Support Program
f. Community Support Programme
g. Budget Based Funded Programme
Please provide, for the last five years and the forward estimates:
1 - The number of families, children and services supported under each of these programs
2 - The annual and per capita cost for families, children and services supported under each of these programs

Answer:

a. Grandparent Child Care Benefit (GCCB)

There is no separate appropriation for GCCB. As GCCB is a special rate of Child Care Benefit (CCB), payment is made through the CCB appropriation and the Department does not separately report on this payment. Provision of this information would involve an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.

b. & c. Special Child Care Benefit

(1) See table below for the number of children supported by SCCB for the last five years. This information is not collected for families or services. 2014-15 data is not yet available. The Department does not estimate these numbers across the forward estimates.

Table 1: SCCB numbers by eligibility category for the last 5 years

SCCB by reason, financial years 2010-11 to 2013–14				
SCCB reason	**Financial Year**			
	2010-11	**2011–12**	**2012-13**	**2013–14**
Child at risk	12 430	13 140	13 810	15 210
Financial hardship	16 310	13 660	15 150	17 250
Total children receiving SCCB*	**27 070**	**25 480**	**27 630**	**30 780**

*Across one financial year a child may be in more than one SCCB eligibility category; these children are only counted once in the Total.
Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

(2) SCCB covers the full cost of care therefore there is no child care cost for families for the duration of their eligibility for the payment.

d. JETCCFA

(1) See table below for the number of families and children assisted by the JETCCFA programme. The Department does not collect information on the number of services that are providing care to JETCCFA customers.

(2) The Department does not collect information on the annual and per capita cost for families, children and services supported under this programme.

Table 2: Past JETCCFA recipients 2010-11 to 2014-15

Number assisted	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*
Parents	31 330	36 850	32 200	34 700	33,600
Children	45 830	55 260	49 000	53 900	51,100

*2014-15 data not yet available. These figures are estimates only.
Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

Table 3: Estimated JETCCFA recipients in 2015-16 to 2017-18

Number assisted	2015-16	2016-17
Parents	39 800	40 700
Children	60 600	61 900

Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

e. Inclusion and Professional Support Programme

(1) IPSP is a service driven programme that provides support to assist eligible child care services to include children with additional needs. It does not provide direct support or funding to families and children.

The Department collects information on the number of children supported through the Inclusion Support Subsidy, noting that this is a payment for the service to engage an additional educator to support the inclusion of a child/ren with ongoing high support needs with typically developing peers.

Table 4: Number of services supported through IPSP

Number of services	2012-13[1]	2013-14[2]	2014-15[3]
Accessing the Inclusion Support Subsidy	5 421	5 618	5 555
Accessing support from the Inclusion Support Agency (ISA)	11 211	10 320	N/A
Accessing support from the Professional Support Coordinator (PSC)	5 524	5 920	N/A
Accessing support from the Indigenous Professional Support Units (IPSU)	235	198	N/A

[1] Data for services accessing the Inclusion Support Subsidy is for full financial year. Data for ISA, PSC and IPSU for 2012-13 data is from 1 January 2013 - the date from which the current funding agreements commenced.
[2] Average number of services supported by ISA, PSC and IPSU over two six month reporting periods.
[3] 2014-15 data on the number of services assisted by ISA, PSC and IPSU is not available until these providers submit their annual report in late July 2015.
Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.
Table 5: Number of children supported through IPSP

Number of children	2012-13[1]	2013-14	2014-15
Listed on a case accessing the Inclusion Support Subsidy	12 558	13 190	13 133

[1]The current funding agreement began on 1 January 2013. Data for 2012-13 relates to the last six months of the previous funding agreement and the first six months of the current funding agreement.

(2) IPSP does not require families, children or services to pay for support provided under the programme, with the exception of activities provided to services by Professional Support Coordinators (PSC). Child care services are required to pay $11 per hour per educator to attend a training course delivered by the PSC. This is to act a disincentive for non-attendance post booking.

f. Community Support Programme

(1) The CSP is a grant program incorporating a number of components and payment types which are tailored to support different types of child care in different locations. As the CSP is paid to child care services the Department does not keep records of the number of children or families accessing these services. The number of child care services to receive funding over the forward estimates is an estimate only, dependent on the number of services that apply and are eligible.

Table 6: Number of child care services in receipt of Community Support Programme funding over the previous 5 years and forward estimates

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	2015-16*	2016-17*
2275	2378	2604	2601	2600	2000	2000

*Estimated number of services to receive CSP funding.
Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

(2) CSP payments are made directly to eligible child care service providers at no cost to the service, children or families for its delivery.

g. Budget Based Funding Programme

(1) BBF is an annual grant programme for eligible child care service providers. The Department does not require funded service providers to keep a record of the number of families accessing BBF services, however, child attendance records are a requirement. The number of services and children attending in each financial year is provided in tables 7 and 8.

Table 7: Number of child care services in receipt of Budget Based Funded Programme funding over the previous 5 years

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Services*	338	342	343	310	299

*Includes all BBF services. 2013-14 numbers reflect Northern Territory Emergency Response Crèches and Indigenous playgroups which transferred to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Table 8: Number of children who attended a child care service in receipt of Budget Based Funded Programme funding over the previous 5 years

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	2013-14*	2014-15*
Children	Not collected	Not collected	19,043	17,111	19,216

*Utilisation data is self-reported by BBF funding recipients and should be considered indicative. 2013-14 numbers reflect transfer of NTER Crèches and Indigenous playgroups to PM&C. Improved data collection introduced in 2014-15 may partially account for increase in numbers.

(2) BBF payments are made directly to eligible child care service providers. The Department does not collect information on the annual and per capita cost for families, children and services supported under this programme.