

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: SQ15-000429

Topic: Child care safety net

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

With reference to the Minister's Media Release of 8 May 2015 which indicates the Government will introduce a higher capped subsidy for families transitioning from income support to work:

- 1 - Will this program replace the current Jobs Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance program?
- 2 - What assistance will be provided to parents? How will it be capped? 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?
- 3 - What will the eligibility criteria be?
- 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 the Jobs Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance program?
- 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?

Answer:

- 1 - The Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) is not directly comparable to the current Jobs Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA). However it will provide additional assistance to families transitioning from income support to work and undertaking study or training.
- 2 - ACCS will provide a top up to the Child Care Subsidy of up to 95 per cent of the fee charged (up to the hourly fee cap).
- 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 JETCCFA are different programmes, the numbers of families assisted are not directly comparable.
- 5 - As the ACCS and Special Child Care Benefit Financial Hardship are different programmes their budgets are not directly comparable.