

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: SQ15-000434

Topic: Benchmark price - who will be worse off

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

With reference to the benchmark price:

1. How many services does the Department expect will charge fees above the benchmark price in 2017-18, and future years?
2. Please provide a breakdown of the number of services expected to charge fees above the benchmark price in 2017-18 into \$5 increments?
3. Can you please provide a breakdown of the number of services expected to charge fees by location – city, region, and electorate?
4. How many children and families does the Department expect will be relying on services that charge above the benchmark in 2018-18, and future years? Can the Department provide this information broken down by:
 - a. Location – city, region, electorate?
 - b. Family income in \$10,000 bands?
 - c. Family status – single parent or two parents?
5. Currently CCR provides a 50 per cent refund of out of pocket costs, but the Child Care Subsidy will be based on the a per cent of the benchmark price. How many families and children will be worse off because of the move from linking support away from actual fees and on to a benchmark fee?
6. Can the Department provide this information broken down by:
 - a. Location – city, region, electorate?
 - b. Family income in \$10,000 bands?
 - c. Family status – single parent or two parents?

Answer:

1-4. The Department's model does not contain the fees of individual services, nor does it contain the number or location of services in the out years. The Department has not estimated how many services will be charging above the hourly fee cap.

5-6. To answer these questions would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.