

**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: SQ15-000475**

**Topic: Families and children worse off under Child Care Subsidy**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Lines, Sue asked:**

Which groups of families and children will be worse off under the Child Care Subsidy, compared to the current system?

**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 per cent of the actual fee covered up to the fee cap for up to 24 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.