

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: SQ15-000497**

Topic: Community Childcare Fund

Hansard page: Written

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah asked:

Aboriginal Child and Family Centres (ACFCs) across Australia have projected 50 per cent shortfalls in their annual budgets (amounting to deficits of approximately \$500,000) if they are required to operate under child-based subsidies. How does the Government propose they continue operating under their mandates as integrated early years support services, with deficits of this magnitude?

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has responsibility for the Children and Family Centres.

Under the new child care system, the Child Care Safety Net will provide additional targeted assistance to services and vulnerable or disadvantaged families to address a range of access, affordability, locational and socio-cultural barriers to child care. The Child Care Safety Net includes the Community Child Care Fund, a competitive grants programme, which will support child care services to ensure their viability and to improve access to child care for disadvantaged children, particularly in rural and remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

From 1 July 2017 Children and Family Centres that deliver child care will be eligible to access the Child Care Subsidy and apply for funding under the Community Child Care Fund.