

**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: SQ15-000503**

**Topic: National Quality Framework**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah** asked:

What supports have been built in to the policy for Budget Based Funding services to come within the National Quality Framework and be assessed under the National Quality Standard? This was a multi-year process for mainstream services who were injected with significant funding and training to support them to comply with the ratings system. Will similar support be provided to services under the Budget Based Funding program? What is the plan for support for this process and how much funding has been allocated?

**Answer:**

The Review of the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda on Early Childhood Education and Care is considering the inclusion of out-of-scope services, including Budget Based Funded services, within the National Quality Framework. A decision regulation impact statement is being prepared for consideration by Ministers responsible for child care and early learning. It is anticipated that the decision regulation impact statement will be endorsed before the end of the year.

In recognition of the additional assistance Budget Based Funded services need to improve their quality in line with those covered by the National Quality Framework the *Budget Based Funded – Improved Standards* measure has provided around \$60 million in assistance since 2010-11. This has supported around 130 long day care type Budget Based Funded child care services to improve their quality towards the National Quality Standard.