

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ16-000418

Topic: Children's Policy

Hansard page: 10

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

In regard to the decline in funding over the forward estimates, budget-based funding (BBF) for childcare move to employment and the number of services drawing from grant programs within both portfolios, have you considered the impact of the cuts to that family and children's area, particularly when combined with the changes to the BBF program? Can I clarify whether the budget-based funding program in child care existed under that families and children's section that we have just been referring to?

Answer:

Variations in the appropriation for the Department of Social Services' Families and Children component 2.1.2 reflect the mix of government decisions for measures over the forward years. The appropriation is \$255,021 million in 2015-16 to \$255,499 million in 2016-17, to \$249,423 million in 2017-18 to \$240,783 million in 2018-19 and \$244,688 million in 2019-20. The Department does not consider that this variation will have a significant impact on the delivery of Families and Children services. The appropriation for Families and Children services does not include child care funding.

The Department of Social Services was responsible for child care policy and programs from December 2014 to August 2015. Child care funding, including the Budget Based Funded services, was incorporated in the Department of Social Services Outcome 2. At the time, the appropriation was reflected in Program 2.4 Support for the Child Care System, and separate to Program 2.1 Families and Communities, which includes component 2.1.2, Families and Children.

The Department of Education and Training has been responsible for the Budget Based Funded services from August 2015. The appropriation is part of the Department of Education and Training Program 1.1 Support for the Child Care System.