

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000166**

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

***Cameo - number of days of care under the proposed changes***

**Question**

In the following cameo, how many days of care will the mum be able to access under the proposed child care changes? And how many days will she be able to tell her employer that she is available to work?

Dad works full time as a diesel mechanic and earns \$85,000 per year. They have one 2 year old and mum is trying to go back to work. She is offered some very casual shifts at a local shop – basically just filling in when others can't make it. There are no regular hours on offer at the moment, but the shop is happy to train her up and look to give her regular hours when they become available. There is no guarantee about hours of work, but she wants to get her foot in the door. A local child care centre has places available on every day of the week. How many days a week of subsidised care can she access? How many days can she book at the centre? And how many days can she tell the boss she is available?

**Answer**

The activity test is based on the number of hours of recognised activity an individual undertakes per fortnight. If the mother is working casual or irregular hours, she will be able to estimate her hours of activity over a three month period to ensure her workforce participation is supported.

The number of hours of activity the mother estimates per fortnight would determine which step of the activity test she would fall into. The mother can combine her work with other recognised activity she may undertake, such as study or volunteering, to increase the hours of subsidised care.

If the mother estimates her activity to be at least eight hours per fortnight over a three month period the family would be entitled to 36 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.