

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. SQ16-000169

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Families accessing care outside of standard hours, by service type

Question

Can the overall number of families accessing care outside of standard hours be broken down by service type?

- a. Can the Department please specify what percentage of families using family day care access care outside of standard hours?
- b. Can the Department please specify what percentage of family day care educators provide care outside of standard hours?

Answer

Data on non-standard hours of child care usage is only applicable to Family Day Care (FDC) and In Home Care (IHC) because these care types receive a different rate of Child Care Benefit for non-standard hours of care.

FDC and IHC services must identify their standard hours in their publications and in information given to people using the service. Unless other specified times are approved, standard hours must be hours that are between 7 am and 6.30 pm; 10 continuous hours each day, from Monday to Friday; and hours during which the service normally provides care for the greatest number of children. 'Non-standard' hours are any hours that are not standard hours as described above, including overnight care.

Just over 70 million hours of care were used by children in FDC and IHC in March quarter 2015. Around one-third of these were non-standard hours.

- a. In the March quarter 2015 there were 121,480 families who used FDC, of which 71,010 used at least one non-standard hour of care. In the March quarter 2015, there were 2040 families who used IHC, of which 1690 used at least one non-standard hour of care.
- b. The Department of Education and Training does not collect data on the number of family day care educators who provide care outside of standard hours.

The department's analysis also shows that during the March quarter 2015, the average fee per hour for families using non-standard hours of care in Family Day Care was \$7.65. This is lower than the \$7.75 per hour for families who used standard hours of care. A similar pattern was observed in In Home Care.