

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. SQ16-000192

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Nanny Pilot program

Question

In relation to the services that can be provided by nannies subsidised under this program, are services such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes and hanging it out, grocery shopping, school pick-up and drop-off, eligible under the guidelines?

The Department's Fact sheet for the program states:

"Nannies are not expected to undertake cleaning, shopping or other household duties for the family unless they are directly related to the care of the children."

- a. Please clarify in what circumstances cleaning, shopping or other household duties would be allowed under the program?
- b. Would grocery shopping be permissible? Presumably some of those groceries would be consumed by the child or children – would that be allowed under the guidelines?
- c. Similarly, what household cleaning and cooking is allowed under the program? Can children's clothes be laundered?
- d. What guidance beyond that one line in the Q&A is there for nannies, families and service providers on how to distinguish between duties that are directly and indirectly related to the care of the children?
- e. How will the Department be enforcing these guidelines? How will the Department ensure that nannies are not essentially performing household chores that fall outside the intention or guidelines of the program?
- f. What resources have been allocated to the Department to ensure compliance with the guidelines? Will they be doing spot checks?

Answer

- a. Nannies will only be expected to undertake cleaning, shopping or other household duties for the family where these tasks are directly related to the care of the children. The specific duties to be performed by the nanny in relation to the eligible children in their care are individual arrangements negotiated between the service provider, nanny and the family in accordance with the Programme Guidelines. The Programme Guidelines are available at www.education.gov.au/nannypilot.
- b. See response to a.
- c. See response to a.
- d. The Programme Guidelines provide further guidance on nanny duties.
- e. Compliance checks will be undertaken as part of the department's standard contract management processes.
- f. Compliance checks will be undertaken as part of the department's standard contract management processes and these may include spot checks.