

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000061

Senator Collins, Jacinta asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 74

POA in enrolment contracts

Question

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I just want to say to you that I am curious, as Senator Bernardi has said, about these forms or contracts that parents are being presented with. Is that new information to the department?

Ms Wilson: The priority of access guidelines are not new information.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: No, I was specifically referring to the form or the contract that Senator Bernardi was referring to, that a parent, on taking up a vacancy, is presented with a form to demonstrate that they have been advised to meet the criteria that is in the guidelines in relation to the potential for them to be removed from that place?

Ms Wilson: We would probably have to take that on notice. Every provider has their own enrolment contracts. Each of the different services will have their enrolment contracts. We do not necessarily oblige them to put those words in there. I could not give you an top-of-the-head response if the bulk of them have that sentence in there or not.

Answer

The Priority of Access Guidelines have been a requirement of the *Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000* since 2000.

The Family Assistance Law does not prescribe the form and manner in which an approved child care service must notify a family of their service's obligations under the Priority of Access Guidelines.

Child care services are not required to inform the department if and how they have implemented the Priority of Access Guidelines, therefore, this information is not collected by the department.