

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. SQ17-000544

Senator Paterson, James provided in writing.

Child care portion of the Omnibus Bill 2017

Question

How many times has the child care portion of the Omnibus Bill 2017 already been reviewed and consulted on?

Answer

The child care elements of the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017 (the Omnibus Bill) have been the subject of three Senate inquiries.

The Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment conducted:

- the inquiry into the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (*Jobs for Families* Child Care Package) Bill 2015, which reported on 4 April 2016. The inquiry held a public hearing and received 143 submissions. The Australian Government's response to the inquiry report is available at <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/43026>
- the inquiry into the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package) Bill 2016, which reported on 10 October 2016. The inquiry held public hearings over two days and received 50 submissions. The Government's response to the inquiry report is available at <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/43021>

The Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs conducted:

- the inquiry into the Omnibus Bill, which reported on 21 March 2017. The inquiry held a public hearing and received 68 submissions.

More broadly, the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package has been the subject of extensive stakeholder consultation throughout its development, including through:

- Regulation Impact Statement consultations undertaken by the Department of Education and Training across Australia in July 2015
- meetings of the Ministerial Advisory Council for Child Care and Early Learning
- meetings of the Stakeholder Reference Group for Child Care and Early Learning
- meetings of a Technical Reference Group of stakeholders, which has met nine times since April 2015
- consultations in April, September/October and December 2016 on the development of the Minister's and Secretary's Rules to be made under legislation giving effect to the Package
- consultation with the sector, state/territory agencies, and other relevant stakeholders on the development of the Community Child Care Fund, and
- ongoing consultation with individual peak bodies and services throughout the development of the Package.