

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0207_14

Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 48

Question

Early Years Quality Fund - wage amounts

Senator CASH: Mr De Silva, could you also take on board as to whether or not words to the effect of 'the wage amount is a union approximation' have ever been used? Ms Paul: By whom? Senator CASH: By Mr De Silva. Ms Paul: I do not think that Mr De Silva has given evidence. Mr De Silva: I have never said that. I have not given evidence against Early Years Quality Fund prior to today. Senator CASH: You did not use those words or you have never used those words in relation to this wage rise? Ms Paul: We have not had an outing in the Senate on this since it was announced in the budget, except for last night but that was not Mr De Silva. That was in workplace relations with Senator Abetz. That phrase was not used last night. Senator CASH: Have you ever briefed any members of the shadow ministry on this issue? Ms Taylor: Yes, we briefed Ms Sussan Ley. Senator CASH: Was Ms Ley told in that briefing that the wage amount is a union approximation and it was not set in stone? Ms Taylor: I do not recall. I was at that briefing, but I do not recall. Senator CASH: That briefing was on 27 May in Minister Garrett's office? Mr De Silva: Yes. Ms Taylor: I think that is right, but I do not recall those words being used. Senator CASH: Perhaps you could check your notes and get back to the committee on whether or not those words were used at that briefing.

Answer

No notes were taken at the meeting on 27 May 2013 with Ms Ley.

Neither Ms Taylor or Mr De Silva can recall whether those specific words were used at the meeting.