

**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. EW0214_14

Senator McKenzie asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 54

Question

Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit recipients - 2012-13 to 2013-14

Senator McKENZIE: I have a follow up question. We have the 7,000 reduction. That is hopefully accounted for by a policy change. The two rows under that have the number of families who are only receiving CCB or CCR. As a result of the changes that you are talking about in the system due to the updating of the data, are we to assume that some who were maybe receiving both have, because of the update, fallen into either one of those to other categories? Ms Taylor: I would think so. Having said that, I will take that on notice. Senator McKENZIE: After doing my rough calculations, we have 7,000 sitting over here, but when you look at the difference between the number of families receiving only CCB between 2012-13 and 2013-14 there is a difference of 29,000. Similarly, with the families receiving only CCR there is a difference of 41,000, which is a total difference of 12,000 if we are looking at a straight transfer. There are about 5,000 families extra. Could you clarify that for us on notice. Ms Taylor: I will. As I said, it may be that the budget revisions for this year reflect higher than anticipated usage. We would need to look at whether that flows through to the other years before making those revisions in the out years. That is probably the case. If we compared the 2013-14 to the 2012-13 budget at this time last year— Senator McKENZIE: You might see something similar. Ms Taylor: That is right. You would see the differences. Senator McKENZIE: If that is the case—if it is something that happens regularly as a result of accounting—why haven't we looked at that in the forward years? Ms Taylor: That is why I am taking it on notice—to make sure.

Answer

To continue to strengthen the accuracy and consistency of reporting, the Department regularly updates its modeling of Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR). This approach results in updates to projections in relation to the number of families receiving child care payments in future years and to the proportion of those families who qualify for either CCB or CCR only or a combination of both payments. The Table 2.1.2A on page 40 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013–14 has been updated for 2013–14 and future years. Actual data for 2012–13 will be reported in the DEEWR Annual Report.