

**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. EW0218\_14**

**Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 56**

**Question**

**National Partnership on Early Childhood Education**

Senator CASH: ... I will turn now to the national partnership agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care. My understanding is that \$655.6 million has been offered to the states under the latest partnership. Is that correct?

Ms Taylor: Yes—not for the national quality partnership; that is for the national early childhood education national partnership.

Senator CASH: What conditions have been placed on the funding?

Ms Taylor: Very similar conditions or agreements have been reached with the states and territories as for the current national partnership agreement. The national partnership agreement is around the provision of preschool or kindergarten universal access, as we refer to it—600 hours per year. The proxy measures go to 95 per cent enrolment. There are a range of other measures that are set out in individual states' implementation plans. The implementation plans for this current national partnership have been developed on a state-by-state basis. But there are some general things that states have to achieve. Provision by an early qualified teacher is 95 per cent enrolment. There is I think 90 per cent attendance.

Senator CASH: Is that something you are able to provide to the committee, instead of going through them? Is it possible to get you to give to the committee the list of conditions associated with the money have been placed upon the states?

Ms Taylor: Absolutely. I would note that it is a national partnership, so there is agreement with states and territories. And it is through COAG, so it is first ministers signing. I do not think that the national partnership has been signed as yet, although I will take it on notice and check. So, it was agreed at the last COAG meeting—

Senator CASH: It is still subject to—

Ms Taylor: That is right—the negotiations with states and territories. And then there will be their implementation plans. We can get you a list of everything that is on the table if you like.

Senator CASH: Given that it is still subject to sign-off, is it possible to provide a breakdown of how much each state and territory will receive?

Ms Taylor: Yes.

**Answer**

On 19 April 2013, the Council of Australian Governments endorsed a new National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE) for the 18 months covering the period from 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2014.

Under the new agreement, the Commonwealth will contribute an additional \$655.6 million to the states and territories to ensure uninterrupted service delivery in 2013 and 2014, consistent with all governments' ongoing commitment to universal access to early childhood education.

Further information about the conditions for funding under the NP UAECE can be found at:

[www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/education/early\\_childhood\\_education/early\\_childhood\\_education.pdf](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/education/early_childhood_education/early_childhood_education.pdf)