

**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. EW0219_14

Senator Cash asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 57

Question

Indigenous preschool attendance

Senator CASH: In terms of the number of Indigenous children receiving the 15 hours preschool a week—and obviously by 'receiving', insert 'attending'—are you able to provide any information in relation to that? Mr De Silva: On a national basis; I cannot provide it on a jurisdictional basis. Senator CASH: Okay. Mr De Silva: On a national basis 56 per cent of all children—actually, that was all children—are now receiving— Senator CASH: Okay, so that is of all children. Can we break it down to Indigenous? Mr De Silva: I do not have that figure here. Senator CASH: Could you take that on notice? Mr Taylor: We will take that on notice. Senator CASH: And see whether or not you can break it down. If you can break it down, I would be very interested more in the jurisdictional as opposed to the overall because, clearly, coming from Western Australia, I am assuming that would be an entirely different figure compared to the national. Mr Taylor: Yes, absolutely. One of the issues, though—because it is the ABS who do a lot of the collection—about being able to break it down by jurisdiction is whether there is sufficient statistical robustness—if that is a word—around those figures. But we will take that on notice. Senator CASH: I would just be interested to see what you do have.

Answer

**The number of Indigenous children aged four and five attending early
childhood education in 2012¹**

	NSW	Vic	Qld ²	SA	WA ³	Tas	NT	ACT ⁴	AUS ⁵
2012 National Collection⁶	3,033	852	2034	835	2,078	505	984	139	10,460

¹ Source: *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0)*

² QLD data unpublished.

³ In WA attendance rates have been applied to enrolment counts to estimate the number of children attending and the hours of attendance. These figures are indicative only.

⁴ Totals for Australian Capital Territory exclude data for Preschools within Independent Schools, which was unavailable in 2012.

⁵ Australia totals are derived by DEEWR from National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection data for 2012, unpublished

⁶ As some state data includes episodes of preschool rather than unique child counts, some double counting is expected in this data.