

**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. EW0241_14

Senator Back asked on 6 June 2013, Hansard page 27

Question

Preschool attendance by Indigenous children

Senator BACK: In response to a question on notice from, I think, the last additional estimates, we learnt that 82 per cent of Indigenous children were attending preschool for at least one hour per week in 2011. The question is: why was the measure of one hour per week used, and is that an accepted standard? Ms Paul: Which question on notice would that be? Senator BACK: The number I have here is 153. Ms Paul: It is an older question. I do not think I know the answer to that offhand. We do not have the Early Childhood people here. I will take that on notice.

Answer

For the purposes of the ABS publication *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012* (cat. no. 4240.0) (the National Collection), a child is taken to be attending if the child is enrolled in a preschool program and has attended the program for at least one hour during the reference period. This is the accepted standard agreed to by the Australian Government and state and territory governments.