

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0109_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Family day care services seeking funding through the Community Support Program

In the PBS, page 29, states that from 1 July 2015 all family day care services seeking funding through the Community Support Program will be subject to eligibility criteria that target funding to services providing care in regional, remote and disadvantaged communities. a) What was the rationale for targeting only family day care instead of just changing the program guidelines? b) Will the department be asking non-family day care services to re-apply for their funding? c) What criteria will the department use to determine the service is provided in regional, remote and disadvantaged communities? d) How will the new criteria take into account the unique nature of family day care services that have a head office in a particular location but have branches and educators within various regions?

Answer

- a) The Community Support Programme (CSP) programme guidelines have been amended to include eligibility criteria for Family Day Care services seeking to access CSP funding. The existing eligibility criteria, as outlined in the guidelines, are already applicable to other child care service types such as Long Day Care and Outside School Hours Care and hence do not require amendment.
- b) All child care services in receipt of CSP funding are required to have their eligibility for ongoing funding reviewed on an annual basis.
- c) As outlined in the programme guidelines, the department uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard to determine the location, including the remoteness classification, of a child care service. In addition, the department uses the ABS' Socio-economic Indexes for Areas, and in particular, the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, to determine whether a particular location is disadvantaged.
- d) The eligibility criteria reflect the fact that Family Day Care services can have educators in areas other than where the coordination unit is located. As outlined in the programme guidelines, the location of a Family Day Care service is determined taking into account where the coordination unit of a service is located and where the majority of educators are located, to ensure that the objectives of the programme are met.