

**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. ED0295\_15**

**Senator McKenzie asked on 4 June 2014 , Hansard page 51**

**Question**

**ANAO report on the Community Support Programme**

Senator McKENZIE: Thank you. The ANAO report on the Community Support Programme identified these inequities. Did it recommend that the eligibility requirements be reviewed? Ms Pearce: Yes, it did. Senator McKENZIE: And that is actually occurring? Ms Pearce: That has occurred. That is why we have the new eligibility criteria applying from 2015 to all services. Senator McKENZIE: That report came down in 2012. Ms Pearce: It did. Senator McKENZIE: Two years. What action did the former government take to address this anomaly or this failure of policy objective? Ms Paul: I do not think any changes were made. Senator McKENZIE: No changes? No addressing the recommendations of the ANAO report? Ms Pearce: Not that I am aware of, but I can certainly take that on notice.

**Answer**

In 2012, the then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations accepted the Australian National Audit Office's recommendations in relation to the Community Support Programme's policy settings. No changes to the eligibility criteria were made prior to Minister Ley's announcement on 21 March 2014 of the introduction of eligibility criteria for new Family Day Care services effective 1 April 2014.