

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. ED0297_15

Senator McKenzie asked on 4 June 2014 , Hansard page 52

Question

National Partnership

Senator McKENZIE: I understand that national partnership is subject to review by June. Mr De Silva: Yes. Senator McKENZIE: The Assistant Minister for Education offered to expedite the review. Has that occurred? Ms Wilson: Certainly the minister has written several times to her colleagues and at meetings of education ministers has outlined that she understands people want certainty. We have had delays in the provision of data from states and territories, and that was an important part. Deloitte Access has been engaged, and has been engaged for quite a while, to do this piece of work. Some jurisdictions are as late as six to nine weeks past the deadlines. Senator McKENZIE: Who is late, Ms Wilson? Mr De Silva: We will probably have to take on— Ms Wilson: I might want to get the latest data because I think I have some impressions in my head and I do not— Senator McKENZIE: Yes. You do not want to say something when they actually handed in their homework yesterday. Ms Wilson: That is right. Ms Paul: That is right. Let us not verbal our colleagues unwittingly. Senator McKENZIE: That is right. I do appreciate getting that type of answer right. Ms Wilson: Yes. There were several extensions, and I just need to see by the last date. Mr De Silva: Who provided what.

Answer

It was expected that jurisdictions would provide all requested data by 7 March 2014. At that time only Victoria and Australian Capital Territory provided the requested data. Several extensions were granted, with all jurisdictions providing a range of requested data, by the Deloitte Access extended deadline of 9 May 2014. Since then there has been additional data received and ongoing discussions with jurisdictions regarding the review, including clarification of data provided.