

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000398

Senator Lines, Sue asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 123

Australian Early Development Census

Question

Senator LINES: Is there an adjusted level of expenditure on the AEDC across the forward estimates or post 2016-17 when the \$4.6 billion comes out?

Mr Cook: It then returns to the \$11.9 million as indicated. I am on page 30 of the PBS, which actually shows the forward estimates for the Australian early development census. In 2017-18, it is \$11.9 million; in 2018-19, it is \$11.9 million.

Senator LINES: Can you give me the funding that had been previously been allocated to research in 2013-14?

Mr Cook: We will have to go back to another department to some degree because that was the old department. We can take that on notice and hunt it down for you.

Senator LINES: I think the figure gave me for 2014-15 was \$360 million.

....

Senator LINES: Before making that \$6-million cut, did you consult with academics or any experts or states?

Mr Cook: We did not have the program. The officers before me and including me did not have the program at that time so we picked up AEDC as part of the machinery of government. Where a number of early childhood programs when across to DSS, we kept this. But the people who are doing that work basically have gone across to DSS as well, so we will not be able to help you on that. I am happy to take it on notice and seek confirmation but we cannot help you on that

Answer

In 2013–14, the then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations allocated a total of \$1,262,108 for research activities using the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data set.

Savings of \$4.6 Million are spread over three financial years: \$367,000 in 2014–15; \$1.2 Million in 2015–16 and \$3.2 Million in 2016–17.

The department is not aware of any formal stakeholder consultation prior to the Australian Government's decision to realise a \$4.6 million saving from the programme.