

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000498

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Kindergarten and preschool funding

Question

Referring to the agreements between the Commonwealth and the states on kindergarten and preschool funding for 2015.

1. What are the differences in the terms of each bilateral implementation agreement between jurisdictions?
2. What are the current targets and how is each jurisdiction progressing against each of the targets?
3. Does the Department anticipate any jurisdictions not meeting the targets set? What penalties would be imposed as a result?

Answer

State and territory implementation plans set out strategies for providing universal access and delivering on the outcomes and outputs set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education. The plans reflect the different contexts in which preschool programmes are delivered in each jurisdiction. Once finalised, all plans will be published online at: www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au.

The performance benchmarks for universal access are outlined in the National Partnership Agreement. The 2014 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection is available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website and provides information by state and territory about preschool enrolments and attendance.

The department is not in a position to pre-empt the assessment process. Payments will be based on performance against the benchmarks set out in the National Partnership Agreement.