

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000499

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Universal Access to preschools

Question

1. In relation to the Government's announcement of the additional funding for the Universal Access to Preschools program, can the Department provide a breakdown of the \$843 million by:

- a. State
- b. Year

2. Can the Department outline the proportion of funding in each state that will go to:

- a. Government run preschools
- b. Community preschools
- c. Long Day Care centres
- d. Other providers

In announcing the agreements the Prime Minister said they would: Help improve preschool enrolments and attendance. Since 2008, enrolments and attendance have increased, but there is still some way to go – particularly for indigenous, vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

3. How will this be achieved? Are there any targets or specific strategies?

4. What penalties will be imposed in the new agreements if jurisdictions do not meet the agreed outcomes?

5. Will the new agreements be bilateral agreements or part of the National Partnership Agreement?

6. What consultations will take place before the agreements are finalised?

Answer

The breakdown of funding for individual states and territories under the extended National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education over 2016 to 2017 is set out in the following table.

Financial year splits – extended National Partnership Agreement on Universal to Early Childhood Education 2016 to 2017				
Expense (\$m)	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	Total
NSW	39.9	133.9	95.3	269.0
VIC	30.3	101.6	72.3	204.0
QLD	26.1	87.5	62.3	175.9
SA	8.2	27.6	19.6	55.4
WA	13.9	46.6	33.2	93.7
TAS	2.6	8.6	6.1	17.3
NT	1.5	5.1	3.6	10.2
ACT	2.1	7.2	5.1	14.4
TOTAL	124.6	418.1	297.5	840.0

In addition, \$3 million has been allocated by the Department of Education and Training for the purpose of conducting the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection. This brings the total allocation to \$843 million.

Consistent with the requirements under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, states and territories will determine how funding is allocated to preschool programmes in individual jurisdictions.

Once the extended National Partnership Agreement has been finalised, bilateral implementation plans will set out strategies in each state and territory for providing universal access and delivering on the outcomes and outputs set out in the National Partnership Agreement.

Performance and payment arrangements under the extended National Partnership Agreement for 2016 and 2017 are currently being negotiated.

The National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education will be extended over 2016 to 2017 and will be supported by bilateral implementation plans for each state and territory.

The National Partnership Agreement will be negotiated according to the agreed process set out on the Federal Financial Relations website: www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au