

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Early Childhood and Child Care

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000873

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

MyChild website

Question

Are the vacancy reports on the MyChild website updated every week? What are the minimum reporting requirements services should comply with for MyChild? What are consequences if minimum reporting is not met?

Is there a compulsion for services to report fees on MyChild? How many comply? What are consequences if minimum reporting is not met?

Answer

- Vacancy information submitted by child care services into the Child Care Management System (CCMS) is extracted and published on the MyChild website four times a week (Monday to Thursday).
- Approved services are required, by a request issued under section 21 of the *Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000*, to report their vacancy information for the coming week by 8 pm local time each Friday.
- Long Day Care Services that do not meet this requirement in any week are sent automated vacancy reminder emails from CCMS.
- Vacancy reporting by other service types, such as Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care, is monitored by the Department Of Education and Training and reminders are sent periodically via the MyChild mailbox to services that have not been consistently meeting the reporting requirement.
- Services are not required under the Family Assistance Law to report fee information for publication on MyChild. However, services are encouraged to do so.
- As at April 2017, 48 per cent of all services had provided fee information for publication on MyChild.