

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. SQ17-000907

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Size of child care centres

Question

Is the size of child care centres increasing in terms of the number of children at one centre?

NOTE – Extract from Australian Childcare Alliance NSW submission to the Draft Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policy, April 2017, p10:

After consulting childcare service providers, ACA NSW has learned of unique proposals including 5 storey childcare services and childcare centres with in excess of 200 places.

- a. What is the largest child care service that has approval or has sought approval in the country? How many centres have more than 100 places? How many were this large five and ten years ago?
- b. Are there any services with over 100 places in the current approval process?
- c. What impact do very large services have on outcomes for children? Is there any research into that?

Answer

a and b. State and territory governments are responsible for approving the number of places available for children in early childhood education and care services.

c. The Department of Education and Training has not undertaken research into the impact of large services on outcomes for children.

The National Quality Framework requires all services, regardless of their size, to meet the necessary standards relating to children's care and education. These requirements are regulated by state and territory governments.