

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004076

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 63

Question

Providers childcare

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Is child care available at any of the ParentsNext sites?

Mr Hehir: Normally, the ParentsNext provider helps the parent identify where suitable child care is, but most of the providers have a space for children for when parents are attending appointments.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: So there is a space for children at the facilities?

Mr Hehir: Certainly at the ones I have seen. I need to check with the team on whether it is a requirement, but certainly every one I have been to—

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: If you could please check that—for the 10 that exist and the 20 that will be established on top of that.

Answer

There is no formal requirement for current ParentsNext providers to make child care available at their sites. However, of the current 31 ParentsNext projects, 17 projects make specific commitments to have family friendly offices; meaning they have an area set aside for children to play while their parent meets with their provider, or make contact with parents in family friendly environments outside of the office, if required.

The decision on whether the ParentsNext providers in the national expansion will be required to provide family friendly offices will be part of the program design.