

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0180_14

Senator Tillem asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 60

Question

number of children in care

Senator TILLEM: The new government has claimed that families would flee from approved child care with the introduction of the national quality framework. Can the department provide the number of families using approved care or the number of children in approved care before and after the introduction of the national quality framework, please? Ms Wilson: I am not sure we have the before and after numbers with us. I can tell you that— Senator TILLEM: Which ones can you provide us with now? Ms Wilson: In terms of the number of children in care in the March quarter, there were 1,042,280 children. That represents about 729,780 families. Senator TILLEM: For what period? Ms Wilson: The March quarter, which is the latest data we have. Senator TILLEM: We do not have any figures prior to the implementation of the national quality framework? Mr Cook: We can take that on notice. Ms Wilson: Are you talking about prior to 2012? Senator TILLEM: Yes. Ms Wilson: We can get you a point in time before that period. Senator TILLEM: The last quarter before that point in time, so that we can have a comparison of the numbers pre and post. Mr Cook: It is fair to say that the numbers have increased every year. For example, regarding the numbers we just gave you, that is a 6.8 per cent increase over the year in relation to the number of children using approved child care. Senator TILLEM: So there has been a 6.8 per cent increase. Mr Cook: Between the March quarter last year and the March quarter this say, in terms of the number of children using approved child care. Senator TILLEM: If you take that on notice and provide the actual numbers, that would be much appreciated.

Answer

The number of families using approved childcare was 700 110 in the December quarter 2011 and 689 790 in the March quarter 2012, a decline of 1.5 per cent.

The number of children using approved child care in March quarter 2012 was 976 230 compared to 1 042 280 in the March quarter 2013, an increase of 6.8 per cent.