

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Care**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0434\_15**

**Senator Lines provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Inclusion and Professional Support Program - streamlined program delivery**

I refer to Page 83 of Budget Paper 2, where the second dot point states that \$12 million over two years will be saved by streamlining program delivery of the Inclusion and Professional Support Program. The answer to Question on Notice ED0102\_15 refers the committee to page 83 of Budget paper 2 but this does not explain what "streamlining" means. \$12 million means a lot to services that provide support for children with extra needs. (a) Please explain in detail how these savings will be made and provide a list of which services will be impacted. (b) Please also explain how you plan to consult with services about these changes.

**Answer**

- (a) Streamlining, which will not take effect until the conclusion of current funding agreements on 1 July 2016, will result in more efficient and effective administration of the Inclusion and Professional Support Program to ensure funding is targeted to those most in need.
- (b) The Productivity Commission has undertaken extensive public consultations, including with child care and early learning services, as part of its inquiry. Following the Government's response to the Productivity Commission inquiry, a communication strategy will be developed to explain any proposed changes to current arrangements.