

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. ED0441_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Community Support Program - new guidelines

I refer to the new guidelines for funding the Community Support Program starting next financial year, as detailed on Page 81 of Budget Paper 2.

- (a) Why wasn't there any consultation with the family day care sector prior to the changes in guidelines being announced?
- (b) Will a service receiving CSP funding become instantly ineligible if another service sets up in same region?
- (c) How often will the index of relative socio economic disadvantage be re-assessed?
- (d) How often will the self-assessment tool be updated?
- (e) How long will the CSP funding contracts be for?

Answer

- (a) Why wasn't there any consultation with the family day care sector prior to the changes in guidelines being announced?

The changes to the Community Support Programme (CSP) were announced in the 2014–15 Budget and as such were subject to Budget confidentiality arrangements. The Family Day Care sector was consulted immediately following the Budget announcement and has been consulted on an ongoing basis through the development of the Business Development Package.

- (b) Will a service receiving CSP funding become instantly ineligible if another service sets up in same region?

No

- (c) How often will the index of relative socio economic disadvantage be re-assessed?

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, including the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, is developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and derived from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. It was last updated to take into account the 2011 Census data. The ABS will determine the next update after the 2016 Census.

(d) How often will the self-assessment tool be updated?

The CSP self-assessments tools will be updated quarterly until July 2015 and then twice a year.

(e) How long will the CSP funding contracts be for?

All Family Day Care CSP funding agreements will expire on 30 June 2015 and new contracts will be 12 month contracts.