

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. ED0446_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Family Day Care - self assessment tool consultation

Question

On its website, the Department of Education says it has worked with sector peak bodies to develop tools that will assist services to undertake a preliminary self-assessment of possible eligibility for Operational Support funding. (a) Which peak bodies were consulted and when? (b) Has the department been genuinely consulting with Family Day Care Australia in the design of this tool and to understand the impact of these changes on services and families?

Answer

The Department has had multiple interactions with representatives from Family Day Care Australia (FDCA), the NSW Family Day Care Association (FDC NSW) and the Family Day Care Association of Queensland (FDC QLD) to discuss the changes to the CSP and the development of resources to assist services. The department met with representatives of these groups on 17 June 2014, the same day as the national meeting of all Family Day Care state peak associations.

The Department subsequently engaged FDC NSW in partnership with FDC QLD and in consultation with FDCA to develop a Business Development Package which will help Family Day Care services adapt to the CSP changes and enable individual services to maintain strong, viable business models. In addition to the self-assessment tools available on the department's website which were developed in consultation with FDCA, FDC NSW and FDC QLD, the package includes seminars and a publication to assist services undertake a preliminary assessment of their eligibility from July 2015.