

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. ED0644_15

Senator Lines asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 93

Question

Current programs and the budgets for those programs that support children

Senator LINES: How many children nationally and in each state and territory would be classified as needing extra support? So that you are clear about what I am asking for, are you able to explain the current programs and the budgets for those programs that support children, for example, with disability; children who need learning support; children from non-English speaking backgrounds; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children? Ms Wilson: To go to your first question, the number of children supported by the Inclusion Support Subsidy, which is what the program is called, in 2012-13, it was about 12,550 to be exact; and, in 2013-14, it was 12,752. Senator LINES: Can you give that by each state and territory? Ms Wilson: I can take that on notice. I do not have it with me at the moment.

Answer

The Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP) promotes and maintains high quality, inclusive education and care for all children including those with additional needs in eligible early childhood education and care settings. This is achieved by increasing the knowledge and skills of educators, and the capacity of education and care services, through providing professional development, advice and access to additional resources and support. For the purposes of IPSP children with additional needs are those from the following priority groups:

- children with disability, including children with ongoing high support needs;
- children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- children from a refugee or humanitarian intervention background; and
- Indigenous children.

IPSP comprises two main types of support:

- Inclusion Support improves access and inclusion for children with additional needs
- Professional Development raises the quality of the education and care provided in child care and early learning services.

The Inclusion Support Subsidy is paid to eligible child care and early learning services to include children with ongoing high support needs, including children with disability, undergoing continuous assessment for disability or from a refugee or humanitarian intervention background.

The table below shows the number of children included by services receiving Inclusion Support Subsidy by state and territory in 2012–13 and 2013–14, as at November 2014.

2013-14	12,786
New South Wales	4,914
Victoria	3,359
Queensland	2,134
South Australia	1,202
Western Australia	609
Tasmania	274
Northern Territory	99
Australian Capital Territory	195