

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW1020_10

Senator Payne asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 82.

Question

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Senator PAYNE—By when would you expect the overwhelming major[ity] of the preschools to be providing 15 hours? Ms Shugg—I do not have that estimate with me. Senator PAYNE—Is there an estimate? Ms Shugg—It might be able to be pulled out of the implementation plans, but I have not seen any work done on that. Senator PAYNE—If it is possible, can you provide that to the committee? Ms Shugg—Yes.

Answer

Under the National Partnership on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE), state and territory governments have indicated that they will be progressively lifting the provision of early childhood education to 15 hours a week over the five year life of the NP ECE to 2012–13. All states and territories plan to have commenced implementation of the 15 hours commitment during 2010, with some states having already commenced delivery in 2009.

By end 2012 the majority of Australian children will have access to early childhood education programs for at least 15 hours per week for 40 weeks per year (or equivalent) in the year before formal schooling. By 2013, all children will have access to early childhood education programs for at least 15 hours per week for 40 weeks per year (or equivalent) in the year before formal schooling.