

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

DEEWR Question No. EW1176_12

Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 17

Question

Teenage parent pilots

Senator BACK: Can I go to the teenage parent pilots. I have had advice that in Burnie in Tasmania there is currently a shortage of places for children up to the age of two years. I understand that this is a centre for one of the teenage parent pilots. Can you explain to me, first of all, whether it is the case that there is a shortage of places in Burnie and, if there is, where does the department expect that these places can be found for these young children, so that their parents can actually rejoin the workforce? Ms Caldwell: I would need to take on notice the details of vacancies or shortages in Burnie itself.

Answer

The Helping Young Parents program (the teenage parents trial) provides new supports and opportunities for teenage parents in 10 disadvantaged locations. Parents will collaboratively develop a Participation Plan with an officer from the Department of Human Services (DHS). The plan will include activities to assist the parent attain a Year 12 or equivalent qualification and connect them to services that support the development of their child/ren (e.g. playgroup, childcare, parenting classes). DHS will help parents find suitable child care if this is required, however it is parents' decision what particular arrangements they choose.

During the week beginning 5 February 2012, there were 4 long day care services operating in the Burnie Local Government Area. All of these services had provided vacancy information for the week, and all of them indicated that they had vacancies suitable for children under 2 years of age.