

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0972_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 23

Question

National Quality Framework - budget based services

Senator NASH: I understand there is a review into the budget-based services. Ms Taylor: There is. Senator NASH: Is there a date that we could expect to see the final review? Ms Taylor: We do not have a final date at the moment. Mr De Silva: It was announced I think on 19 July last year. There was consultation towards the end of last year, and submissions were put to the department. We are still working through those. There is no final date for the review to be completed. Senator NASH: In terms of the funding, is that a finite period of funding? Does it run out at any point? Mr De Silva: It is a fixed appropriation, so it is not demand driven, if that is what you are asking. Senator NASH: When does the fixed appropriation finish? Mr De Silva: No, it is ongoing. Senator NASH: What is the total amount so far over the last five years? How much would have gone in? Ms Taylor: Over the last five years? We will take that on notice. Senator NASH: That would be great, thanks. Is there a capital grants component of that? Ms Taylor: There is, yes. Senator NASH: If you could take that on notice, too, the funding that went to capital grants out of that total pool, that would be great. If the budget based care ceases, and there have been assets that have been provided, how does that work? What happens there? If they were purchased from government grants, what then happens to the assets? Mr De Silva: None have ceased. Are you asking if they got sold? Senator NASH: No, sorry; it is a bit hypothetical. If they did. I was not saying that they had been, but if— Ms Paul: I was just thinking, I do not think any have.

Answer

The funding provided to support the operation of Early Childhood Education and Care services under the Budget Based Funded (BBF) Program over the last five years totals approximately \$289.86 million. It is important to note these totals have been calculated using expenditure figures for 2008–09 to 2011–12 and allocated funding for 2012–13.

The capital funding provided under the BBF Program over the last five years (as at 28 February) totals approximately \$9.9 million of the \$289.86 million.