

**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. EW0977_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 28

Question

School of the Air

Ms Taylor: They have not raised it with us. It is entirely up to them how they provide that, but one of the requirements is for a qualified teacher to provide this, which is why programs that I personally know of in South Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory have used both School of the Air and mobile services. So they have qualified staff actually going to these. That has not been raised as an issue—

Senator NASH: You are absolutely right, and the mobile services are great. Of course, you are right; we have those trained people providing the service in the School of the Air. What I am talking about is catching it at the other end, because there is not the opportunity for the child to be physically in the classroom with the teacher, that there has to be obviously an adult at the other end to catch the provision of that education.

Ms Taylor: Absolutely.

Senator NASH: That is the bit that is missing. As I understand it to date, there is no recognition in a funding sense of the adult that has to catch the provision of that education at that level for the pre-school child. Perhaps if you could take that on notice?

Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice, but it would be a matter for the states and territories about how they use the funding.

Senator NASH: True. But in your discussions with the states, as you referred to previously, you obviously had all the criteria and the milestones and the expectations that you had for them to be able to receive the funding, I guess I am asking if you would take on notice to consider that as part of one of the criteria for the receipt of the funding to ensure that it is starting to get recognised that someone has to catch the provision of the education for the child at that remote location. If you could take that on notice to consider it, and put that in the mix of the deliberations around that, that would be great?

Ms Taylor: I am happy to do that.

Answer

Through the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NPECE), the Australian Government is investing \$970 million toward the achievement of universal access to early childhood education by 2013. Under the NPECE, state and territory governments remain responsible for early childhood education in their jurisdiction and the delivery of agreed outcomes.

Given the different systems of early childhood education, under the NPECE each state and territory has adopted different approaches to deliver on the universal access commitment. This may include support for families and innovative and flexible delivery options to ensure early childhood programs are accessible across diverse geographic locations.