

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Department of Education Question No. ED0393_14

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Refers to previous Question No . [ED0150 14](#).

Question

Allocation of funds from the Early Years Quality Fund Special Account

Further to the questions I placed on notice last year, can the department advise whether any further communication has occurred with the union that was providing inaccurate information about allocation of funds from the Early Years Quality Fund Special Account? 2. If so, what was the nature and date(s) of such communication(s)? 3. Has the union formally withdrawn that information and provided a correction? 4. How much of the Fund has now been allocated? 5. How many centres have received allocations? Have all staff in these centres received pay rises? 6. What percentage of the industry has now received a portion of the fund? (Please provide further details of the portion of the funding, and whether it varies from centre to centre) 7. Will the department be conducting a review of the fund and whether there has been an increased cost to parents and providers because of it?

Answer

- 1 and 2. No further communication has occurred.
3. The Department has not been informed whether United Voice formally withdrew the information and provided a correction.
- 4, 5 and 6. As at 26 February 2014, no funding had been allocated.
7. An independent report of the review by PricewaterhouseCoopers of the establishment and implementation process of the Early Years Quality Fund (EYQF) was released on 10 December 2013. The report is available at www.education.gov.au/early-years-quality-fund.