

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. ED0428_14

Question

Child care fees

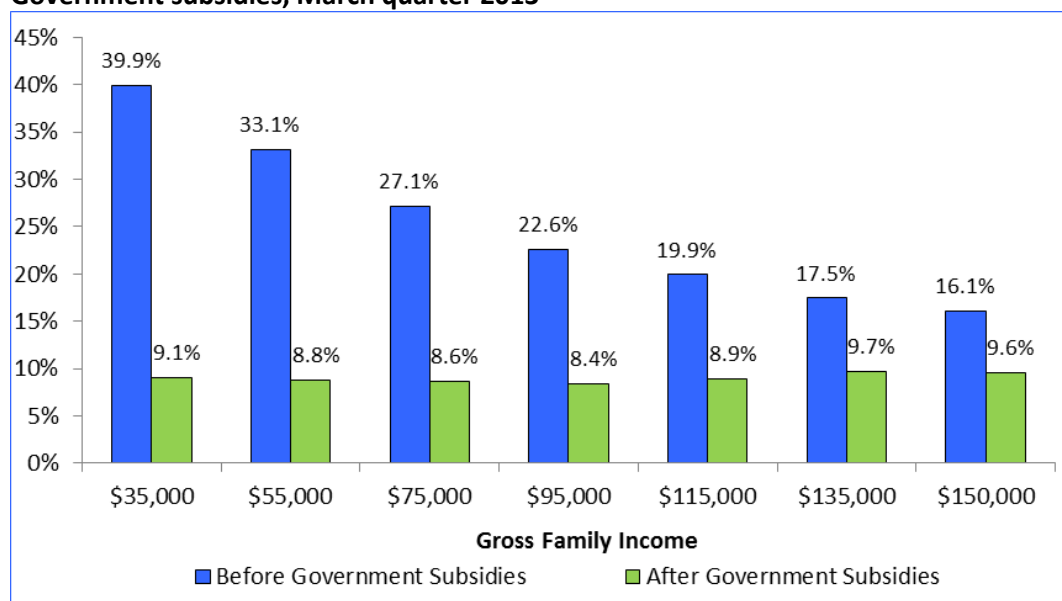
Senator TILLEM: I know. What I am essentially asking is if that work has been done by the department in terms of the cost to parents and with the assistant minister making her statement what I want to know is if the department can provide for the quarters that the minister has spoken about the out-of-pocket expense cost to the parent as opposed to the hourly charge increase? Ms Paul: We can dig out our submission to the Productivity Commission and we will take on notice that sort of analysis and get back to you on that.

Answer

Out of pocket cost scenarios are calculated in the March quarter, based on disposable income information that is updated annually in that quarter by the Department of Social Services.

The current out of pocket costs scenario is for March quarter 2013. This is included in the department's Submission to the Productivity Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning and is also available at page 10 of the Child Care and Early Learning In Summary report available on the department's website, and is provided at Figure 1.

Figure 1: Out-of-pocket costs for one child in long day care before and after Australian Government subsidies, March quarter 2013



¹ Out-of-pocket costs (before and after Australian Government subsidies) are shown for families with one child using long day care for 50 hours of care per week.
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

No out of pocket cost scenario is available for March quarter 2007.