

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. ED0432_14

Senator Tillem asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 77

Question

Indigenous child care funding

Senator TILLEM: For the ease of the committee I will table a copy of an article that appeared in the Australian on 14 February entitled 'Indigenous child care faces funding crisis'..... Senator TILLEM: Can the department provide any evidence of a directive or a decision by the previous government to stop funding the childcare and family centres and move them to a user pay system? I am trying to differentiate between department advice on the future of childcare family centres and the government's decisions on their future. Ms Paul: This is under the previous Labor government that you are asking about, but it would still be the case now. Even retrospective questions should be answered by them, technically. They may come to us. We can take it on notice and we will sort it out.

Answer

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has provided the following response, as they now have the responsibility for the funding of Children and Family Centres.

The previous government did not provide any directive on funding for the Children and Family Centres beyond the expiry of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.