

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0120_11

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

MYCHILD WEBSITE- VACANCY RATES

How are vacancy rates calculated?

Answer

The *Child Care Vacancies – Quarterly Snapshot* contains the following vacancy information for long day care, family day care, outside school hours care, occasional care and vacation care:

- Data on the total number of services. This data was derived from the Child Care Management System, and was based on the September Quarter 2009.
- The percent of services reporting is calculated by dividing the number of services providing vacancy information during the reference week by the total number of services derived from the Child Care Management System.
- The proportion of services with vacancies is calculated by dividing the number of reporting services that have one or more anticipated vacancies during the reference week by the total number of services reporting vacancy information for that week.
- The average number of vacancies is calculated by taking the total number of weekday vacancies reported by a service, and dividing the resultant figure by five. The total number of daily vacancies in an area is the sum of the average vacancies per service in that area.
- The percent of places used is reported for long day care services only. This measure is the average number of vacancies as a proportion of the estimated approved places of reporting services for the reference week. Approved places information is taken from the Child Care Management System.