

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

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

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0122\_11**

**Senator Payne provided in writing.**

**Question**

**MYCHILDWEBSITE- COMPILE VACANCY RATES**

Are there any factors other than reporting through the MyChild website used to compile vacancy rates? If so what?

**Answer**

Child Care Benefit approved services report their anticipated vacancies for the following week via the Child Care Management System. Vacancy information is not collected through the Mychild website.

Services are required to report by 8pm Friday local time, using the standard vacancy definition appropriate for their service type.

The standard definitions are:

- For Long Day Care, Family Day Care and In-Home Care: the total number of ongoing full day vacancies that a service is willing to fill.
- For Occasional Care and Vacation Care: the total number of full day vacancies that a service is willing to fill.
- For Before School Care and After School Care: the total number of ongoing full session vacancies that the service is willing to fill.

These refer to vacancies that a service believes it has the capacity to fill if a parent or carer was to contact them wanting to make a booking.

The vacancy data provided by services is used to calculate the proportion of services reporting vacancies, the proportion of reporting services with vacancies, and the average number of daily vacancies that are reported in the *Child Care Vacancies Quarterly Snapshot* publication, and to provide information to families on Mychild and via the Child Care Access Hotline.