

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

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

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0299_11

Senator Fifield asked on 2/06/2010, Hansard page 10.

Question

CHILDCARE REBATE

Senator FIFIELD—Thank you. Could I ask who provided the original draft of the press release? Was it provided by the department? Ms Paul—I do not know—unless you know? Mr Cook—No. Ms Paul—There may have been one from our communications area, but I am happy to take it on notice. Ultimately, of course, it is the minister's. Senator FIFIELD—Surely, Ms Paul, there is someone here who would be able to assist with that? Ms Paul—We will check that out. Ultimately it is the minister's press release. I imagine we probably did do a first draft. Senator FIFIELD—Did the department do a first draft? Mr Cook—I am not aware of that. I would have to take that issue on notice. Senator FIFIELD—Is this your area, Mr Cook? Mr Cook—Yes, it is. Senator FIFIELD—This has been an area of great public interest. You would have been well aware that there would be significant questions going into details including the manner of announcement, the drafting of the press release. Are you saying that you do not know? Mr Cook—That is correct. Ms Paul—Senator, we may well have drafted it. We normally would do a first draft. I am quite happy to check that out and let you know. Senator FIFIELD—If you could. Ms Paul—Sure.

Answer

The Department provided a draft media release as is standard practice.