

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0302_11

Senator Payne asked on 2/06/2010, Hansard page 13.

Question

CHILD CARE CENTRES

Senator PAYNE—..... What part of the \$3 million of each centre is capital and can you tell us what other costs are included in that \$3 million? What is the breakdown of the \$3 million cost? Mr Cook—I can certainly give you a breakdown of the total funding. We may have to take on notice the breakdown of the \$3 million.

Answer

The Australian Government allocated \$114.5 million over four years in the 2008-09 Budget to establish the 38 Early Learning and Care Centres (ELCCs), including six Autism specific centres that are being progressed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHSCIA).

Cost components are outlined in the table below.

| Funding Components[#] | Sub-total (million) | Total (million) | Average per site (million) |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Capital funding | | \$64.6 | \$1.7 |
| Operational Funding | | \$48.3 | |
| - Autism-specific ELCC operational funding [^] | \$16.4 | | |
| - Ongoing child care related expenses, such as Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate | \$31.9 | | \$0.8 |
| Departmental funding [*] | | \$1.6 | |
| - DEEWR | \$0.3 | | |
| - FaHCSIA | \$1.4 | | |
| Total | | \$114.5 | |
| Total average of common costs across the 38 ELCCs | | | \$2.5 |

[#] Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

[^] This cost cannot be apportioned across all 38 ELCCs

^{*} It is not meaningful to apportion departmental resourcing across specific ELCC projects.

It should be noted that capital costs and the number of child care places provided in individual ELCCs (which affect the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate that may be otherwise paid) will vary in individual projects.