

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 – Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0143_13

Senator Williams provided in writing.

Question

Childcare Rebate

"I refer to your evidence during questioning on the Child Care rebates and enclose transcript : Williams :Yes. The message I get from the centre is that the poorest families do not qualify for the 50 per cent childcare rebate. Ms Taylor : They would. They all qualify for the 50 per cent. Depending upon the parents' financial circumstances, there is childcare benefit— Ms Paul : If they are poor, parents would be on FTBA. There would be a whole range of assistances. We probably cannot take it any further without knowing, so we welcome the private chat. If it is the same centre as Ms Taylor said, we have actually paid quite a lot of money for consultants to go in and help them with their budgets and so on. We think, as Ms Taylor said, that will significantly assist. Is it not true that a parent or parents not working, not looking for work, not in training or volunteering and whose children qualify for 24 hours childcare per week, do not get the Childcare Rebate?"

Answer

To receive Child Care Rebate a family must have:

- used approved child care
- been eligible for Child Care Benefit (entitled at a rate of zero or more)
- passed the work, training, study test for the purposes of the Child Care Rebate (both a person and their partner (if they have one) must have had work, training or study related commitments at some time during a week or have an exemption. No minimum number of hours is required).

Families with income up to \$142 426 are eligible for means tested Child Care Benefit, whether or not they qualify for the Child Care Rebate. Families with income up to \$41 026 receive the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit. Higher limits apply for families with more than one Child.