

**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. EW0271_13

Senator Siewert asked on 29 May 2012, Hansard page 64

Question

JET Payments

Senator SIEWERT: When you are studying, what is the time limit that you can access JET? Ms Taylor: Per week? Senator SIEWERT: No. How many years can you access it when you are studying? Ms Taylor: 24 months for the study limit. Senator SIEWERT: It is just two years? Ms Taylor: It is maintained at that. Senator SIEWERT: If I am doing a three-year degree, I have got Buckley's. And if I am trying to get higher education, I have got Buckley's. Ms Taylor: That is what it is. Ms Paul: It is a two-year program. Senator SIEWERT: Do you know any two-year degrees you can get? Ms Paul: It does not mean you stop doing the degree; it means that the 50c an hour is lasting for two years—the highly subsidised part. Senator SIEWERT: Why have two years been set? I know we have had this argument before. It was one year and it has now changed to two. What is the rationale behind this? Why can't you do a higher degree? Ms Taylor: You can; it is not saying you cannot do the higher degree. It is saying that this assistance is there to enable you to take this opportunity for 24 months. Post 24 months then the eligibility is still there for childcare benefit and childcare rebate—and the childcare rebate pays 50 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses after that. In the first two years it is to provide a higher level of support during that period. Ms Paul: Because presumably after the third year some of the people you are interested in would be receiving FTBA et cetera. In terms of the policy rationale, I suspect we would have to go back in time, so we may have to take that on notice. Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated.

Answer

JET Child Care Fee Assistance was extended from 12 months to 24 months of study from 1 July 2008. Parents can choose to receive JETCCFA at the time of their choice up to the 24 month study activity limit.

The 2008-09 Budget Ministerial Statement ***Education Revolution 2008-09*** stated that: "Currently, participants can receive assistance to help meet the cost of child care for study or training for up to 12 months. The Government announced in 2007-08 that it will extend JETCCFA funding so that participants studying can receive assistance for up to two years for multi-year courses, benefiting parents seeking to improve their skills, education and training enabling their participation in the workforce."