

**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. EW0332_13

Senator Nash asked on 30 May 2012 , Hansard page 40

Refers to previous DEEWR question numbers EW0861_12 and EW1165_12.

Question

Special Child Care Benefit

Senator NASH: That would be great, thanks. How many applications have been received for special childcare benefit in the last six months? Ms Caldwell: We provided the number of applications on notice from the February hearings. Senator NASH: I am looking at between February and now as well. I thought there might be a revised figure. Ms Taylor: We may not have that exact number. Ms Caldwell: Applications for special childcare benefit are initially approved for the first 13 weeks through services and applications for individual approvals after the initial 13 weeks in any financial year are not actually processed or decided by this department. That is a function that is undertaken on our behalf by the Department of Human Services, which is why Ms Taylor was saying that the most recent available data would likely be that which we sourced in response to the question on notice recently. Ms Taylor: In the 2010-11 financial year, special childcare benefit was granted for 18,080 families. Senator NASH: Is there any reason why it is the 2010-11 year and not perhaps the 2011-12 year? Ms Taylor: That was the latest— Senator NASH: I see. It is for the financial year ending in the middle of last year. Ms Taylor: We can take it on notice and see if we can get any further update of that.

Answer

The Department of Human Services has provided the following response.

From the period 1 December 2011 to 22 June 2012, the Department of Human Services received 7,162 applications for Special Child Care Benefit.