

**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. EW0352_13

Senator Edwards asked on 30 May 2012 , Hansard page 52

Question

Unclaimed Benefit

Senator EDWARDS: Thank you very much. If everybody were to claim their unclaimed benefits that you expect are out there, have you ever quantified that? Ms Paul: We have also discussed that and it is quite hard to do so because of course these people have not actually registered anywhere. We have had some discussion of what we might be able to do. Ms Taylor: And also because everybody's circumstances are different, it is about whether they can claim a maximum rate childcare benefit or some proportion or no childcare benefit but just childcare rebate. The childcare rebate pays 50 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses, so it depends on what their out-of-pocket expenses would be. We talked about the modelling we do in looking at the forward estimates. Over the forward estimates if you said that amount of people flowed through, I guess we could put an average cost on that 100,000. I am happy to take that on notice. Senator EDWARDS: A contingent liability factor of what? Ms Taylor: I can do that. But because the budget is so large here—just those two alone is \$19.4 billion over the forward estimates—the impact will be minimal. But I am happy to take it on notice to try and get that.

Answer

The department does not separately calculate the entitlement of families not currently claiming benefits. To do this, information would be required on individual family circumstances such as the number of weeks of care for which CCR has not been claimed, hours of care, cost of care and eligibility including whether parents meet the work, training, study test and for what periods. The average of the benefit these parents would claim would be subject to the variability of these factors. The published Forward Estimates include provision for future growth in Child Care outlays overall.