

**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. EW0355_13

Senator Nash asked on 30 May 2012, Hansard page 57

Question

Early Childhood Education

Mr Kimber: Around about 70 per cent of the early childhood education and care workforce have a related qualification, as at the census in 2010. Fourteen per cent have a bachelor degree or above, around about 25 per cent have a diploma or advanced diploma and close to 29 per cent have a certificate III or certificate IV. Senator NASH: So can you spin that around and tell me, just in the numbers of actual workers, how many will actually need to get a certificate III level qualification that do not currently have one that are already existing in the workforce. Mr Kimber: There are around 139,000 currently, as at the 2010 census, in the workforce. I do not have the figures in terms of the growth. Ms Northcott: It is the Access Economics modelling that was referred to earlier and without the additional policy initiatives that have been referred to including recognition of prior learning, HECS-HELP and so forth. Access believe that, in terms of cert III qualified workers, adequate labour would be available by 2017. With the new policies that have been put into place, the workforce will be in place by 2016, which is in time to make the introduction of the new requirements. Senator NASH: Can you take on notice for me, then, the exact figure for workers who are going to need a cert III. Ms Taylor: Certainly.

Answer

From 1 January 2014, the National Quality Framework requires that, within each long day care centre, half of all staff will need to have (or to be actively working towards) a diploma-level early childhood education and care qualification or above, and the remaining staff will all be required to have (or be actively working towards) a Certificate III level early childhood education and care qualification, or equivalent.

The Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census showed that there were 19,460 contact staff working in Long Day Care or Pre-School without a relevant qualification or who had less than a Certificate III qualification. These figures do not identify whether staff had already commenced study in an ECEC related qualification at the time of the Census, nor do they reflect the number of staff who may have commenced or completed study since the collection week in mid 2010.