

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS
SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. EW870_09

Senator Payne asked on 22 October 2008, DEWR Hansard page 104.

Question

National Childcare Quality Standards

“Could you give us some further information ... on the [public] consultation process and the nature of the stakeholders ..., whether you are dealing with individual providers or peak bodies, and how that is all being put together by the department, both in terms of the focus groups and public consultations.”

Answer

Consultations on the national quality framework for early childhood education and care took place between 5 August and 19 September 2008.

The consultations were focused on the discussion paper released by the Productivity Agenda Working Group (PAWG) of COAG. The consultations comprised:

- 48 public forums across all states and territories, including 32 regional centres;
- 35 focus group discussions in all states and territories, including 18 in regional centres;
- 34 in-depth interviews with sector representatives, including remote service providers unable to attend other consultations; and,
- a public call for written submissions that resulted in 347 submissions being received by the due date with a further 40 submissions after that date.

The public forums were available to any interested person and participants were asked to register their intention to attend either by phone or email. There was broad representation from across the sector with a particularly strong representation from service providers (both child care and early childhood education) and child care workers.

Information on the Government's quality agenda and details on how to participate in the consultation process are also available on the Government's dedicated early childhood education and care website www.mychild.gov.au.