

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. **EW423_10**

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

Children and Family Centres

What programs or services have been implemented to meet the objectives of the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership Agreement?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has responsibility for the implementation of Element One: Integration of Early Childhood Services through Children and Family Centres, of the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership Agreement.

Under Element One, thirty-five locations for the Children and Family Centres have been agreed by Minister Ellis and respective State and Territory Ministers. Thirty of these locations have been formally announced. Programs and services to be provided by each of the Children and Family Centres will be determined on a centre by centre basis, in consultation with each community.

The Department of Health and Ageing has carriage of Elements 2 and 3 of the National Partnership.

Also of relevance to achieving the objectives of the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership is the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE). Under the NP ECE, all states and territories have committed to achieving Universal Access to early childhood education for all children in the year before formal schooling by 2013. To assist states and territories to meet this commitment, the Australian Government will provide \$955 million over five years and lead the development of the Indigenous (including remote communities) Universal Access Strategy (the IUAS).