

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

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

**Outcome** 1

**DEEWR Question No.** EW699\_10

Senator Payne asked on 22 October 2009, EEWHR Hansard page 17

**Question**

*Child Care Vacancy Data*

Is it correct that there has not been any data publically released since early 2007?

**Answer**

While vacancy data was last publically released on 19 April 2007 there was no common definition of a vacancy so individual services reported vacancies differently depending on their operational requirements. Therefore what constituted a vacancy (in terms of the length of time) varied from service to service.

To improve the information available to parents and to enhance data quality, a standard definition of vacancy was introduced on 6 August 2009. Since this time services are required to report vacancy using a standard definition based on anticipated ongoing full day or full session vacancy.