

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 – Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0758_13

Senator Nash asked on 18 October 2012, Hansard page 111

Question

The number of waivers issued to services under the National Quality Framework

Ms Taylor: The waivers are granted by the state regulatory bodies. We do not keep records of waivers.

Senator NASH: Do they advise you? Or, if you want that information, do you have to request it?

Ms Taylor: No, they would not directly advise us; they would be advising ACECQA, and I think there is a requirement that the waivers that they give have to be published.

Senator NASH: Can I ask you to take on notice the number of waivers, and perhaps any reasons why those waivers might have been requested. That would be really useful.

Answer

The Multilateral Implementation Plan for the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care requires the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) to report six-monthly to the Standing Council for School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC). The report draws on input from all jurisdictions, and includes information on the proportion of services with waivers. The October 2012 report from ACECQA is currently being considered by SCSEEC and contains information pertaining to this request.

If further information is required, ACECQA would be the most appropriate source for these requests.