

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2013-2014**

Finance Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 1/1.1

**Topic:** Estimates Variations

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** F159

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- a) Can you provide specific details on the numbers of recipients and average rates of payments that have caused the Family Tax Benefit estimates variation in the 2013-14 MYEFO?
- b) Can you provide specific details on the “higher than expected utilisation of child care” that have caused the Child Care Payments estimates variation in the 2013-14 MYEFO?

**Answer:**

- a) At the 2013-14 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook, the following details underpin the estimates variation for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A:
  - an additional 30,000 FTB Part A recipients in 2013-14;
  - an additional 31,000 FTB Part A recipients in 2014-15; and
  - an increase of 2.2% in FTB Part A average rates in both 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- b) The propensity to use approved child care has been trending upward, with the proportion of children aged 0-12 years using approved child care increasing from below 30 per cent to over 35 per cent of children in the past decade. Further detail on trends in the use of child care are available from the Department of Education, which has responsibility for Australian Government child care policy.