



Select Committee on the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector in Victoria

Hearing Date: 24 February 2026

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Early Childhood Australia

Received date: 24 March 2026

1. **Georgie CROZIER, p. 42**

Question Asked:

In Victoria, how many services has that been done with in the last two years or three years? Have you got figures?

Samantha PAGE: How many have been bought and sold?

Georgie CROZIER: Yes, what is the turnover in Victoria? And is it any higher than any other state?

Samantha PAGE: I do not have the data in front of me. I would have to take that on notice and see if I can find it. I am not sure that it is published anywhere, to be honest, but we could try and find out through service approval trends...

Georgie CROZIER: ...What I am interested in is how many times this is occurring and whether it is occurring here in Victoria more frequently than elsewhere, and that could be for a whole lot of reasons – taxation, payroll tax – a whole range of reasons that businesses are not thriving in Victoria.

Response:

When I spoke to the challenges for regulators that arise from rapid sector growth and frequent change of ownership I was drawing on discussions I have had with regulatory authorities across jurisdictions about their challenges as well as conversations with people working across the sector who have seen an increase in provider turnover. In some examples I have been given services have been bought and sold more than once in a 12 month period which is very destabilising for education teams. Regulatory Authorities have suggested to me that they would support stricter requirements on new entrants to the sector through the Australian Government child care subsidy approval process. There have also been conversations about the transferability of operating approvals, including the potential to suspend or revoke a service rating when it changes hands

I cannot find data on how many services have been bought and sold in Victoria or comparative numbers across Australia. There should be data on license transfers held by State Regulators and/or the Australian Government Child Care Subsidy management system but I could not readily access that data. There is some data on the growth and composition of the

Victorian sector in the report from the Rapid Review of Child Safety (see System growth and composition) which identifies there has been substantial growth, largely in the for-profit long day care sector. There are also a number of articles on the childcare property and investment market that speak to movements in property ownership and international investment.

- <https://thesector.com.au/article/childcare-sector-attracts-strong-investment-amid-market-confidence>
- <https://greenstreetnews.com/article/hk-investor-snaps-up-ashburton-childcare-centre/>
- <https://stonebridge.com.au/australian-childcare-property-market-continues-to-surge-with-205-million-transacted-in-2025/>