



**Minister for Housing
Minister for Children & Early Childhood Development**

Hon Wendy Lovell MLC

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ESM 3136

25 JUN 2012

Mr Philip R. Davis MP
Chairman
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Dear Mr. Davis *Phil,*

Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee's Budget Estimates hearing for the Children and Early Childhood Development Portfolio.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has prepared a response to the questions taken on notice at the hearing. Please find the response for the Children and Early Childhood Development Portfolio enclosed (Attachment 1).

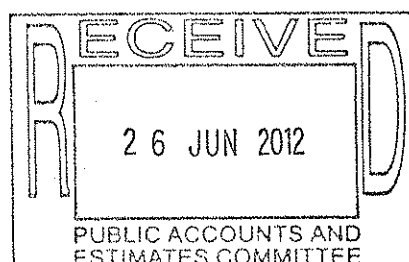
If you would like further information, you may contact Mr Colin Twisse, Executive Director, Executive and Ministerial Services Division, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, on 9637 3535, or by email: twisse.colin.c@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Wendy Lovell MLC
Minister for Children & Early Childhood Development**

21/6/2012

Encl.



**ATTACHMENT: QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER
INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT
THE HEARINGS**

CHILDREN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

1. How much of the money in the early childhood development output comes directly from the Commonwealth Government as part of Commonwealth National Partnership funding?

(Page 8 of the portfolio transcript)

RESPONSE

The output identified in Chapter 3, page 98 of the 2012- 13 Victorian Budget includes \$109.5 million for the National Partnership for Early Childhood Education. This constitutes the final Commonwealth contribution to Victorian under the terms of the agreement.

This funding can be used in seven agreed upon areas as per Schedule 1, Section D (page 13) of the *Bilateral Agreement on Achieving Universal Access to Early Childhood Education* (accessible from: http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_partnership_agreements/education/early_childhood/VIC.pdf).

2. Please provide details of the impact on the Children and Early Childhood Development portfolio of the savings measures, including the dollar impact and the number of job losses.

(Page 11 of the portfolio transcript)

RESPONSE

With regard to general savings measures being applied to corporate and administrative functions across Government, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will, like all departments, be required to operate more efficiently and eliminate duplication. Savings will be achieved by such measures as reducing the annual escalation applied to non-wage expenditure, reducing overheads and better approaches to procurement and cash management. Frontline service delivery will not be impacted.

At this stage, it is not possible to quantify the impact of these savings on jobs within the Children and Early Childhood Development portfolio.

