

Question on Notice
No. 1215
Asked on 13 October 2021

DR C ROWAN ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister (a) explain the consultation process the department followed in developing the Kindy Uplift program and (b) confirm the sector was consulted about this program?

ANSWER:

The Kindy Uplift pilot program is trialling a new approach to funding kindergarten providers, with the aim of supporting improved educational outcomes for children.

The Department of Education is in constant contact with the early childhood sector on a range of issues and this particular program was developed based on its understanding of the sector and a funding formula that borrows from the needs-based Schooling Resource Standard that emerged from the Gonski Review. In particular, the formula focused on three areas that are predictive of educational need:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments;
- enrolments of children from low socio-economic communities; and
- enrolments from non-English speaking backgrounds who are also from low socio-economic communities.

The department will continue to work closely with the early childhood sector throughout the implementation pilot phase, including a comprehensive external evaluation of the pilot, which will require input and consultation with the sector.