



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



# **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Main Committee**

**Consideration in Detail**

**SPEECH**

**Wednesday, 15 June 2005**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## SPEECH

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<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Responder</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Plibersek, Tanya, MP	<b>Question No.</b>

**Ms PLIBERSEK** (Sydney) (4.01 pm)—I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary for Children and Youth Affairs which relates to the Family and Community Services portfolio and the measures that the Department of Family and Community Services uses for unmet demand for child care. Could you give us some information identifying the various measures used by the Department of Family and Community Services to identify unmet need—whether the department uses the measure of the number of places requested by services or the number of children on waiting lists or some other source? Could you describe the methodology used by the department and specify whether different measures are used for different types of child care?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Hon. BK Bishop)**—The parliamentary secretary can choose to answer now or make notes and answer a little later.

**Ms Ley**—I will answer later.

**Ms PLIBERSEK**—I will not use the whole of the five minutes each time but I do have a number of questions.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER**—Are there other members wishing to ask questions?

**Ms PLIBERSEK**—The member for Shortland also wishes to ask questions. Could the parliamentary secretary tell us how often unmet demand is measured by the Department of Family and Community Services? We hear a great deal of anecdotal evidence about unmet demand in child care. We have been told that anecdotal evidence is not satisfactory in this area. However, without knowing the measures that the Department of Family and Community Services uses it is impossible for us to use other measures. In deciding to allocate in this budget 84,300 places to out of school hours care and 1,500 to family day care, how were those figures arrived at? Could the parliamentary secretary tell us whether there has been a measurement of the unmet demand in out of school hours care and family day care by the Department of Family and Community Services and whether the figures arrived at, which were included in the budget, relate to some calculation done by the Department of Family and Community Services?