

Community Affairs Committee

Examination of Additional Estimates 2008-2009

Additional Information Received

CONSOLIDATED VOLUME 3

CROSS PORTFOLIO INDIGENOUS ISSUES

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE
RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

HUMAN SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Please note that Additional Information received relating to the Cross Portfolio Indigenous issues hearing for FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO and HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO is included in the volumes for these portfolios

30 APRIL 2009

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2008-2009

Included in this volume are answers to written and oral questions taken on notice and tabled papers relating to the additional estimates hearing on Indigenous issues pursuant to Senate Resolution of 26 August 2008 held on 27 February 2009

* Please also note that the tabling date of 14 May 2009 is the proposed tabling date

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Senator	Quest. No.	Vol. 3 Page No.	Date tabled in the Senate or presented out of session*
Siewert	1	Child abuse taskforce	14.05.09
Siewert	2	AFP officers – stations where officer is deployed	14.05.09
Scullion	3	Gambling in Indigenous communities in the NT	14.05.09
Boyce	4	Legal assistance from lawyer representing six Nyoongar families in Narrogin	14.05.09

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

	T3 tabled at hearing	Indigenous Early Childhood National Partnership and Children and Family Centres	19.03.09
Mason	CA001_09	NT enrolment and attendance data	14.05.09
	CA002_09		
Siewert	CA003_09	Resources for the Improving School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure (SEAM)	14.05.09
Scullion	CA004_09	Truancy officers for the Northern Territory	14.05.09
Boyce	CA005_09	Indigenous residents in Narrogin faced with lack of job opportunities	14.05.09
Boyce	CA006_09	Indigenous Children and Family Centres	14.05.09
	CA007_09		

HUMAN SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Outcome 1/Output Group 1

	T2 tabled at hearing	BasicsCard roll-out timetable	19.03.09
Siewert	CA2-4	BasicsCard merchants	14.05.09
Boyce	CA1	Details of the BasicsCard Unplanned Outage on 16 & 17 Jan 2009	14.05.09

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 1

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 27 February 2009:

In relation to the Child Abuse Taskforce:

- a) Of those arrested, how many are underage?
- b) For the period of the Intervention, provide a breakdown of those arrested, as to how many were Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Northern Territory Police has advised the AFP that:

- a) two of the people arrested in relation to the Child Abuse Taskforce were underage.
- b) for the period of the Intervention, fourteen Indigenous and sixteen non-Indigenous persons have been arrested.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 2

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 27 February 2009:

Of the 62 AFP officers currently deployed in the Northern Territory, provide the stations each officer is deployed in.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

A breakdown of locations is as follows:

Darwin Support Members 8

Child Abuse Taskforce 7

Maningrida 3

Minjilang 2

Ramingining 2

Warruwi 2

Gunbalanya 2

Gapuwiyak 2

Bulman 2

Numbulwar 2

Peppimenarti 2

Minyerri 2

Borrooloola 1

Yarralin 2

Alpurrurulam 2

Ali Curung 2

Willowra 2

Arlparra 2

Yuendumu 2

Haasts Bluff 2

Nyirripi 2

Santa Teresa 2

Imanpa 2

Hermannsburg 2

Mutiŋjulu 3

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 3

Senator Scullion asked the following question at the hearing on 27 February 2009:

In relation to gambling in Indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory:

- a) have the affected communities been consulted concerning the Government's intent;
- b) is it the Government's intent to stop gambling in these communities;
- c) provide the Committee with an update as to the AFP's progress with this aspect of the Intervention; and
- d) what timeframes does the AFP anticipate for these changes, if any?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) The Northern Territory Police (NTPol) has advised the AFP that the issue of unlawful gambling was discussed recently at an informal meeting between NTPol and the Department of Justice, Licensing and Regulation. NTPol in conjunction with the Department of Justice and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs are reviewing the legislation pertaining to illegal gambling in order to ascertain potential improvements to assist with the identification and prosecution of offenders.

In one remote location, as part of an ongoing education process, NTPol in conjunction with the community is highlighting the illegality and dangers of gambling. There is a focus on ensuring that if gambling occurs children are not neglected or exposed to a gambling culture.

b) NTPol has advised the AFP that they are committed to enforcing legislation under the *Gaming Control Act* throughout the Northern Territory where sufficient evidence can be obtained to pursue prosecutions. Unlawful gambling is dealt with as a normal part of law enforcement duties undertaken. When *prima facie* evidence exists that illegal gambling has occurred appropriate action will be taken. No instruction has been issued to prevent or limit the enforcement of these offences.

c) The AFP is providing up to sixty-six members to support NTPol in remote communities, this includes enforcement of all Northern Territory law including provisions of the *Gaming Control Act*.

d) Any changes to Northern Territory legislation is a matter for the Northern Territory Government and the AFP cannot comment further on the progress of Northern Territory legislative initiatives.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.7

Question No. 4

Senator Boyce asked the following question at the hearing on 27 February 2009

What is being done for the lawyer representing the six Nyoongar families in Narrogin, who might resign due to lack of funding? The lawyer has requested \$30,000 in funding, what reason is this not being funded to ensure the legal representation for these families is available?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department has not received a request for funding for legal assistance from the lawyer representing six Nyoongar families in Narrogin.

The Department understands that the WA State Coroner has not called for an inquest

Indigenous Early Childhood NP and CFCs

- **The Indigenous Early Childhood Partnership was agreed on 2 October 2008**
- **It came into effect in January of this year**
- **Four sites have already been identified**
- **This demonstrates good progress and we know that further sites are being identified currently in accordance with each of the bi-lateral work plans**
- **The Prime Minister's speech on 13 February 2008 was "to have every Indigenous four-year- old in a remote Aboriginal community enrolled and attending a proper early childhood education centre or opportunity to be engaged in pre-literacy and pre-numeracy program...."**
- **The Prime Minister's speech did not refer to the establishment of 35 Children and Family Centres**

COAG Communiqué 3 July 2008

Indigenous Reform – Closing the Gap

Leaders agreed to sustained engagement and effort by all governments over the next decade and beyond to achieve the Closing the Gap targets for Indigenous people.

As a first step, COAG agreed in principle to a National Partnership with joint funding of around \$547.2 million over six years to address the needs of Indigenous children in their early years.

The National Partnership is based on evidence that improvements in Indigenous child mortality require better access to antenatal care, teenage reproductive and sexual health services, child and maternal health services and integrated child and family services. Bilateral plans for implementing the reforms will be agreed between each jurisdiction and the Commonwealth for COAG's consideration in October 2008. COAG further agreed to consider in mid 2009 a progress report and advice about the contribution of COAG's broader reform agenda to overcoming Indigenous children's disadvantage. The Commonwealth will continue to explore with the States the role that conditions on benefit payments could play in increasing the take up by vulnerable families, including vulnerable Indigenous families, of early childhood, family support and child and maternal health services.

COAG agreed that the Working Group on Indigenous Reform (WGIR) should continue to develop reform proposals for improving community safety, remote service delivery and Indigenous economic development and active welfare for consideration in October 2008. In addition, COAG requested the WGIR, in conjunction with other

Working Groups, to report to COAG in December 2008 on how COAG's broader reform agenda will deliver an integrated strategy on closing the gap for all Indigenous people.

From COAG Communiqué 2 October 2008

Indigenous Early Childhood Development

In a further demonstration of all governments' commitment to sustained engagement and effort in achieving COAG's Closing the Gap targets for Indigenous people, leaders signed COAG's first National Partnership (NP) covering Indigenous Early Childhood Development. This follows in-principle agreement at the July 2008 COAG meeting to address the needs of Indigenous children in their early years, with an initial focus from birth to three years. Bilateral plans for implementing the reforms have been developed between each jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

Through the agreement, the Commonwealth and the States and Territories will work together to improve the early childhood outcomes of Indigenous children by addressing the high levels of disadvantage they currently experience to give them the best start in life. The NP comprises \$564 million of joint funding over six years to address the needs of Indigenous children in their early years. As part of the initiative, 35 Children and Family Centres are to be established across Australia to deliver integrated services that offer early learning, child care and family support programs. The funding will also increase access to ante-natal care, teenage reproductive and sexual health services, and child and maternal health services.

Extract from Prime Minister's Speech to Parliament 13 February 2008

Australians are a passionate lot. We are also a very practical lot. For us, symbolism is important but, unless the great symbolism of reconciliation is accompanied by an even greater substance, it is little more than a clanging gong. It is not sentiment that makes history; it is our actions that make history. Today's apology, however inadequate, is aimed at righting past wrongs. It is also aimed at building a bridge between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians—a bridge based on a real respect rather than a thinly veiled contempt. Our challenge for the future is now to cross that bridge and, in so doing, embrace a new partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Embracing, as part of that partnership, expanded link-up and other critical services to help the Stolen Generations to trace their families, if at all possible, and to provide dignity to their lives. But the core of this partnership for the future is to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians on life expectancy, educational achievement and employment opportunities. This new partnership on closing the gap will set concrete targets for the future: within a decade to halve the widening gap in literacy, numeracy and employment outcomes and opportunities for Indigenous children, within a decade to halve the appalling gap in infant mortality rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and, within a generation, to close the equally appalling 17-year life gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous when it comes when it comes to overall life expectancy.

The truth is: a business as usual approach towards Indigenous Australians is not working. Most old approaches are not working. We need a new beginning. A new beginning which contains real measures of policy success or policy failure. A new beginning, a new partnership, on closing the gap with sufficient flexibility not to insist on a one-size-fits-all approach for each of the hundreds of remote and regional Indigenous communities across the country but instead allows flexible, tailored, local approaches to achieve commonly-agreed national objectives that lie at the core of our proposed new partnership. And a new beginning that draws intelligently on the experiences of new policy settings across the nation. However, unless we as a parliament set a destination for the nation, we have no clear point to guide our policy, our programs or our purpose; no centralised organising principle.

So let us resolve today to begin with the little children—a fitting place to start on this day of apology for the Stolen Generations. Let us resolve over the next five

years to have every Indigenous four-year-old in a remote Aboriginal community enrolled and attending a proper early childhood education centre or opportunity and engaged in proper preliteracy and prenumeracy programs. Let us resolve to build new educational opportunities for these little ones, year by year, step by step, following the completion of their crucial preschool year. Let us resolve to use this systematic approach to building future educational opportunities for Indigenous children to provide proper primary and preventive health care for the same children, to begin the task of rolling back the obscenity that we find today in infant mortality rates in remote Indigenous communities—up to four times higher than in other communities.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency 2

DEEWR Question No. CA001_09

Senator **Mason** asked on 27 February 2009, EEWWR Hansard page 33.

“Refers to previous DEEWR Question No. CA005_09”.

Question

NT Enrolment and Attendance Data

Senator MASON – I think that I have that already, actually.

Mr Harvey – Yes, you have. You have the attendance and enrolment data. We can give you more comprehensive attendance and enrolment dates.

Senator MASON – You can ? If you could provide that to the committee, that would be terrific.

Answer

The most comprehensive enrolment and attendance data available was provided to you in response to your question of 24 October 2008. Since that time, however, the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training have updated their figures. Revised tables are provided below.

Table 1 : Enrolments (Government Schools) 2007 - 2008

Geolocation	2007		2008		CHANGE	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Provincial	3 061	13 604	3 227	13 461	166	- 143
Remote	2 889	3 823	2 869	3 549	- 20	- 274
Very Remote	8 250	1 412	8 894	1 326	644	- 86
TOTAL	14 200	18 839	14 990	18 336	790	- 503

Table 2 : Attendance (Government Schools) 2007 - 2008

Geolocation	2007		2008		CHANGE	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Provincial	83.1 %	92.0 %	82.0 %	91.6 %	- 1.1	- 0.4
Remote	79.6 %	91.4 %	80.8 %	92.2 %	1.2	0.8
Very Remote	65.6 %	88.5 %	66.8 %	90.7 %	1.2	2.2

Source : NT Department of Education and Training

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency 2

DEEWR Question No. CA002_09

Senator Mason asked on 27 February 2009, EEWHR Hansard page 34 and 35.

“Refers to previous DEEWR Question No. CA005_09”.

Question

NT Enrolment and Attendance Data

Senator MASON – Good. The second question that I put on notice last time was about enrolments and attendance. You touched on this before, Mr Harvey. My maths is not good, but you have two figures : enrolments and attendance. The most important figure, however, might not be enrolments or attendance; it might be how many children there are in that age cohort, which is a different figure. So you have how many children there actually are, how many are enrolled and how many attend. That would give a much more accurate figure of the efficiency of your programs. Do we have figures on age cohorts and how many kids there actually are ?

Mr Harvey – Yes, we do.

Senator MASON – Can you make available the number of kids enrolled, as a percentage of the age cohort, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous ?

Mr Harvey – Yes, we can do that. I do not have that with me.

Senator MASON – That would be very interesting because it actually changes the equation considerably.

Mr Harvey – Yes.

Senator MASON – You will take that on notice ?

Mr Harvey – Yes.

Senator MASON – For what years can you provide that ?

Mr Harvey – The challenge is that the data is from the 2006 Census. We would have to marry as much data as possible.

Senator MASON – Can you go back to 2006 ?

Mr Harvey – We can do the population, but at this point I cannot commit to enrolment and attendance data for 2006. But we can draw assumptions about the population and present that data, yes.

Senator MASON – But you certainly have 2007-2008 and you can provide population details for 2007-2008. I know the committee would be interested in that because that would give a better reflection again of what Mr Dodson and Mr Pearson have been talking about all week – that is, getting kids to school. The information the committee has before it is about attendance as a function of enrolment rather than attendance as a function of population. I think the committee would be very interested in knowing what the population statistics are for Indigenous and non-Indigenous kids taken in by this program. Is that okay, then ?

Mr Harvey – Yes, Senator.

Senator MASON – Do you understand why the committee would be interested in that ?

Mr Harvey – Yes.

Answer

Estimate of Non-Enrolled

The most reliable data we have on non-enrolled children of compulsory school age is based on the 2006 reference year. Using 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data also provides the most accurate estimates of the school aged population.

Recent analysis undertaken on behalf of the Department by Access Economics, estimated the total number of enrolled students (aged 6 - 13 years) in the Northern Territory in 2006 was around 25 200. The Access Economics estimates for the number of non-enrolled children in the Northern Territory in 2006, taking into account adjustments such as for unfulfilled home schooling enrollments is approximately 1 900 children.

Attendance Rates

The Northern Territory Government publishes data on school attendance rates for Government schools in the Northern Territory. (See tables below that compare attendance rates by geolocation from 2006 - 2009).

Attendance figures cannot be shown as a function of population as equivalent data for non-government schools is not available.

Attendance

Geolocation	2006		2007	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Provincial	82.9 %	92.3 %	83.1 %	92.0 %
Remote	78.7 %	92.7 %	79.6 %	91.4 %
Very Remote	65.4 %	90.2 %	65.6 %	88.5 %
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	71.8 %	92.2 %	72.2 %	91.6 %

Geolocation	2008		2009	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Provincial	82.0 %	91.6 %	84.0 %	92.0 %
Remote	80.8 %	92.2 %	80.1 %	92.4 %
Very Remote	66.8 %	90.7 %	64.9 %	90.4 %
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	72.8 %	91.6 %	71.9 %	92.0 %

Source : www.det.nt.gov.au/education/enrolment_attendance/index.shtml

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome 8

DEEWR Question No. CA003_09

Senator Siewert asked on 27 February 2009, CA Hansard page 51

Question

Resources for the Improving School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure (SEAM)

Senator SIEWERT:

... .. From what I can gather from your answer, the schools have not been given any more resources—or you do not know. Sorry, I am not trying to verbal you. You do not know if the schools have had any more resources to deal with parents attending the schools?

Ms Shannon:

I can only comment on the Australian government funded additional resources. I can seek to find out from my Northern Territory counterparts whether they have provided additional resources and the level of additional resources that they may have provided in relation to this, but essentially I can only comment on the additional Australian government resources that have been put in place.

Senator SIEWERT:

And there is none for the specific schools for this trial?

Answer

The Northern Territory (NT) School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) trial sites are Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Wallace Rockhole, Hermannsburg, Wadeye and the Tiwi Islands.

Information on any additional NT Government funding for these sites is being sought from the NT Department of Education and Training (DET). It is not available at this time.

In relation to the Australian Government, there are a number of additional funding measures assisting schools in the SEAM trial sites. These are listed below.

Classroom funding:

- Under Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) funding, 15 new classrooms were completed in government-run remote schools in preparation for Term 1, 2009. A sixteenth additional classroom for a government-run remote school was delayed due to accessibility issues related to road closures. This classroom is expected to be installed in preparation for Term 2, 2009. Funding was also provided through the 2008-09 Federal Budget for a further six remote area classrooms.

- In terms of the specific SEAM trial sites, four classrooms will be completed at the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart school in Wadeye in preparation for Term 2, 2009. One classroom will be built at the Murrupurtiyanuwu Primary School in Nguiu in the Tiwi Islands in preparation for Term 2, 2009.

Tiwi College:

- The Tiwi College on the Tiwi Islands commenced taking students in Term 1, 2008. The Australian Government made a \$16 million contribution toward the construction of this facility.

Teachers:

- Almost \$100 million over five years is being provided by the Australian Government to place 200 extra teachers in remote area schools.
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- In terms of the specific SEAM trial sites, this funding has been used by the NT Catholic Education Office to place a teacher at St Joseph's College in Katherine (to assist students from remote communities). A teacher has also been placed at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School in Nguiu in the Tiwi Islands. Two additional teachers have also been placed in the Milikapati School in the Tiwi Islands.

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- Teacher Housing:

The Australian Government will provide \$5 million to build up to 10 new teacher houses in Wadeye, a SEAM trial site, as part of the Government's commitment to help recruit quality teachers and improve learning opportunities for Indigenous children.

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- School Nutrition Program:

The School Nutrition Program is in place in the following SEAM trial sites: Tiwi Islands, Hermannsburg, Wadeye and Wallace Rockhole. In addition, meals are also provided under this program to students from Katherine Town Camps attending school in Katherine.

Quality Teaching and Accelerated Literacy

The Australian Government provided \$16.5 million in 2008-09 for a Quality Teaching package and Accelerated Literacy measure. The package will help to reduce teacher turnover in remote schools by strengthening the skills of the existing education workforce, with a particular emphasis on local Indigenous staff. It will provide assistance to 45 remote government and non-government schools.

In terms of the specific SEAM trial sites, this measure is operating in Wadeye, Hermannsburg and in the Tiwi Islands.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency **2**

DEEWR Question No. **CA004_09**

Senator Scullion asked on Friday 27 February, EEWR Hansard page CA52

Question

Truancy Officers for the Northern Territory

"Is there any consideration of attendance ? The fundamental issue, the capacity of the Northern Territory to provide dedicated officers and transport, still appears to be one of the fundamental challenges. From a policy perspective, Minister - you may wish to take this on notice - is the Commonwealth considering providing assistance to the Northern Territory in the area of truancy officers and attendants in these areas ?

Senator Chris Evans - I will have to take that on notice."

Answer

School attendance is a responsibility of state and territory governments.

Each state and territory education authority implements strategies for dealing with poor attendance and for raising parental awareness about the value of education and the importance of children going to school every day.

The Northern Territory Government appoints home liaison and attendance officers who are dedicated to supporting schools on attendance related issues. The Northern Territory Government has established a dedicated School Attendance Unit within the Department of Education and Training. The Department of Education and Training has also developed a six-point plan to assist schools to work with communities to establish strategies to improve attendance.

Many of the initiatives funded by the Commonwealth Government in the Northern Territory, such as; funding an additional 200 teachers in remote Northern Territory schools, a School Nutrition Program which provides breakfast and lunch to school-aged children and accelerated literacy programs, are aimed at maximising the relevance of school for Indigenous children and increasing attendance.

The Commonwealth Government is trialling the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) in a number of NT communities, including Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Wallace Rockhole, Hermannsburg, Wadeye and the Tiwi Islands. This trial links school enrolment and attendance to welfare payments.

The Commonwealth Government continues to work closely with state and territory governments and non-government education authorities to explore reasons for non-attendance of compulsory school-aged children and to improve education outcomes for Indigenous children.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency **7**

DEEWR Question No. CA005_09

Senator Boyce asked in writing.

Question

What is being done regarding Indigenous residents in Narrogin who are often faced with lack of job opportunities?

Answer

Indigenous Australians in Narrogin WA have access to the following programs funded by the Department:

- the current Job Network; Personal Support Program and the Job Placement, Employment and Training (JPET) program, which from 1 July 2009 will be replaced by Job Services Australia;
- Structured Training and Employment Projects (STEP) and Structured Training and Employment Projects Employment Related Services (STEP ERS) projects through the Indigenous Employment Program; and
- a project under the Group Training Australian Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives Program (TIP).

Services funded by the Department are currently undertaking activities that include:

- participation with a group of local community representatives and involving Federal and State Health departments, aimed at suicide prevention;
- a STEP project to encourage and engage Indigenous youth in training to assist them to gain employment. The project assists up to 50 Year 11 and 12 students to commence a School Based Traineeship; up to 32 school leavers to commence an apprenticeship or traineeship; and to source open general employment for 6 disengaged youth;
- a STEP ERS project to encourage Indigenous Australians to engage in employment, using a five phased strategy which seeks to obtain sustainable employment outcomes for Indigenous Australians through: healing and fitness for work; pre-employment assistance, including vocational and/or skills training; employment placement; and mentoring support;
- a further STEP ERS project for pre-employment training, vocation training, employment placement and mentoring services; and
- a project under the Group Training Australian Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives Program (TIP) to expand Indigenous Australian Apprenticeships at the Certificate III level in the Wheatbelt area, including Narrogin, by 25 commencements. This project funds Group Training Organisations (GTOs) for projects that generate quality Australian Apprenticeships opportunities and employ Australian Apprentices in priority areas which would not happen without intervention.

From 1 July 2009, Indigenous Australians in Narrogin will have access to Job Services Australia. Job Services Australia will provide opportunities for Indigenous job seekers to train in areas of skill shortage and to receive individual support in the form of the right mix of training, skills development and work experience. Job Services Australia will provide job seekers with more personalised help, better targeted services and greater access to training opportunities and work experience in areas of skill need.

Job Services Australia, reforms to the Indigenous Employment Program and CDEP from 1 July 2009 will support greater cooperation between employment providers and Indigenous specific employment services and will deliver a broad range of projects suited to individuals and their local circumstances, focussing on the best employment outcomes. This will also prepare Indigenous Australians to take up employment opportunities, stay in jobs and enhance their future employment prospects.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome **1**

DEEWR Question No. CA 006_09

Senator **Boyce** provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Children and Family Centres

Regarding the children and family centres, the facilitation payments were to commence from January 1 2009, has this happened?

[Clarification from Senator Boyce's office for this part of the Q]

The Government is creating 35 new Indigenous Children and Family Centres that will purportedly provide support for families and pregnant mothers, as well as childcare and early learning services.

The centres are funded through 'facilitation payments' made through COAG. COAG has stated that the first facilitation payment will be made in January 2009. The next round of funding will commence 1 July 2009.

Answer

Yes.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome 1

DEEWR Question No. CA 007_09

Senator **Boyce** provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No CA006

Question

Indigenous Children and Family Centres

Is the Department receiving feedback from the states and territories regarding this?

[Senator Boyce's office has asked for this part of the Q to be replaced with this Q]

What procedures are in place for the states and territories to provide feedback to the Commonwealth concerning the progress of the children and family centres? For instance, will the procedure for feedback be undertaken entirely within COAG or will there be bilateral communication between the Commonwealth and each State?

Answer

Indigenous Children and Family Centres

Each state and territory has a workplan that has been agreed with the Commonwealth through COAG. The bilateral workplans require states and territories to provide a financial report for each element of their work plan to ensure phasing of facilitation payments reflects the work to be achieved each year. States and Territories will also prepare progress reports for each element of the Agreement to contribute to the regular report to COAG on achievements.

BASICSCARD ROLL-OUT TIMETABLE
Roll- out – Northern Territory

Measure	Where	When
NTER	Katherine	8 September 2008
NTER	Alice Springs	24 September 2008
NTER	Beswick (Community)	30 September 2008
NTER	Barunga (Community)	6 October 2008
NTER	Palmerston	6 October 2008
NTER	Darwin (Knuckey St)	9 October 2008
NTER	Jilkminggan, Mataranka (Communities)	13 October 2008
NTER	Tennant Creek	20 October 2008
NTER	Jabiru, Ukaka (Communities)	27 October 2008
NTER	Casuarina, Nhulunbuy, Oenpelli (Community) Pine Creek Town Camps Kybrook Farm	3 November 2008
NTER	Beluen Hermannsburg Wallace Rockhole Laramba Accacia Larrakia Yirrkala Ski Beach Yarralin	10 November 2008
NTER	Nguiu Pirlangimpi Milikapiti Daly River Wadeye Peppimenarti Palumpa	17 November 2008
NTER	Borroloola Town Camps	19 November 2008
NTER	Bulman Gapuwiyak Galiwin'ku Weemol Tara Wilora	24 November 2008
NTER	Kaltukatjara (Docker River)	1 December

2008-09 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2009

	Kintore Papunya Mt Liebig Santa Teresa Umbakumb Willowra Wutunugurra	2008
NTER	Angurungu Daguragu Kalkarindji Minlingimbi Milyakburra Minyerri Ramingining Alpurrurulam Amoonguna	8 December 2008
NTER	Amilatwatja Urapunta Homelands (Utopia) Yuelamu Ali Curung Ingerreke Iwupataka (Jay Creek) Nyirripi Amanbidji Bulgul Darwin Town Camps	15 December 2008
NTER	Port Augusta Currie St (Adelaide Office) has closed Elizabeth Noarlunga Enfield Port Adelaide Coober Pedy Ceduna	December 2008 and January 2009

Roll- out Cape York

Measure	Where	When
Cape York	Mossman, Cairns, Weipa, Northern Peninsula Area, Mareeba, Palm Island, Yarrabah, Townsville, Atherton	22 September 2008
Cape York	Mt Isa	3 November 2008

2008-09 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2009

Roll-out Voluntary Income Management and Child Protection Measures

Measure	Where	When
VIM/CP	Kununurra, Cannington, Wyndham	24 November 2008
VIM/CP	Halls Creek, Balgo	12 January 2009
VIM/CP	Broome	27 January 2009
VIM/CP	Dampier Peninsula	2 February 2009
VIM/CP	Fitzroy Crossing, Derby	9 February 2009
VIM/CP	Rest of the Kimberley	23 February 2009

Senate Community Affairs Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 27 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Centrelink
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output Group 1
Topic: BasicsCard Merchants

Senator: Siewart
Question reference number: CA2
Type of question: Hansard CA10, 27 February 2009
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 April 2009

Question:

CA2: Senator SIEWERT—I need to know where it has been rolled out in the Cannington district.

Ms Johnson—Senator, are you after the number of merchants in the Cannington area?

Senator SIEWERT—Yes.

Ms Johnson—I will take that on notice.

Answer:

CA2: The number of BasicsCard merchants in Cannington is 12.

The number of BasicsCard merchants in areas surrounding Cannington is 163.

The number of BasicsCard merchants nationally, that any customer with a BasicsCard can access, is 802.

This data is current as at 13 March 2009.

Number of pages: 1

Senate Community Affairs Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 27 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Centrelink

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output Group 1

Topic: BasicsCard Merchants

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: CA3

Type of question: Hansard CA10, 27 February 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 April 2009

Question:

CA3: Ms Johnson—I would need to find out the details of the nature of the merchants signed up in the Cannington area and whether Coles and Woolies have also enabled other stores in surrounding areas as well. It goes to whether those other stores have undertaken their staff training and so forth. I am not able to answer that specifically just at the moment.

Senator BOYCE—If I have a BasicsCard, how do I know where I can use it? What communication strategies are you employing?

Ms Johnson—Centrelink provides that information at interviews when they are providing customers with the BasicsCard. They inform them of the merchants where they can use their BasicsCard.

Mr Searston—There is a comprehensive process that we go through with a customer to talk to them about how they can use the card, if they want to change their PIN during the issue of the card and where merchants are available. For merchants there are posters and stickers that people can be aware of that identify where a store might be to use that card.

Senator BOYCE—From the time when a person firsts get the card, the number of merchants could change or increase—one hopes. How would they know about that?

Mr Searston—They can identify the stores by where the posters are displayed.

Senator BOYCE—But I have to go to a supermarket to see whether it is a supermarket where I can shop. Isn't there another way of doing it?

Mr Searston—We have tried to make sure that, where we have a BasicsCard, we have the major suppliers of food and clothing in those areas signed up. My colleague mentioned the examples of Woolworths and Coles and those types of stores. People know to use those stores.

Senator SIEWERT—If you could provide the list of merchants, that would be appreciated.

Answer:

**CA3: BasicsCard Merchants in Cannington and surrounding areas in WA.
Current as at 13 March 2009**

Merchant Name	Location
Belmont Amcal Chemist	Belmont
Best & Less Albany	Albany
Best & Less Armadale	Armadale
Best & Less Bunbury	Bunbury
Best & Less Busselton	Busselton
Best & Less Carousel	Cannington
Best & Less Ellenbrook	Ellenbrook
Best & Less Floreat	Floreat
Best & Less Fremantle	Fremantle
Best & Less Gateways	Success
Best & Less Geraldton	Geraldton
Best & Less Kwinana	Kwinana
Best & Less Maddington	Maddington
Best & Less Midland Gate	Midland
Best & Less Mirrabooka	Mirrabooka
Best & Less Noranda	Noranda
Best & Less Rockingham	Rockingham
Best & Less Warwick	Warwick
Best & Less Whitford	Hillarys
Best & Less Willetton	Willetton
Betts Belmont	Malaga DC
Betts Carousel	Malaga DC
Betts Kids Carousel	Malaga DC
Betts Maddington	Malaga DC
Betts Riverton	Malaga DC
BIG W	Armadale
BIG W	Belmont
BIG W	Cannington
BIG W	Cannington
BIG W	Joondalup
BIG W	Kallaroo
BIG W	Karrinyup
BIG W	Landsdale
BIG W	Mandurah
BIG W	Midland
BIG W	Mirrabooka
BIG W	Riverton
BIG W	Spearwood
Bull Creek IGA	Bull Creek
Caltex Woolworths	Beckenham
Caltex Woolworths	Cannington
Coles	Albany
Coles	Armadale
Coles	Armadale
Coles	Belmont
Coles	Bentley
Coles	Bunbury

Coles	Bunbury
Coles	Cannington
Coles	East Victoria Park
Coles	Fremantle
Coles	Geraldton
Coles	Gosnells
Coles	Kalgoorlie
Coles	Karawara
Coles	Karratha
Coles	Kelmscott
Coles	Mandurah
Coles	Midland
Coles	Mirrabooka
Coles	Morley
Coles	Narrogin
Coles	South Hedland
Coles	South Perth
Coles	Willetton
Coles Express	Albany
Coles Express	Armadale
Coles Express	Bentley
Coles Express	Bull Creek
Coles Express	Canning Vale
Coles Express	Cloverdale
Coles Express	East Victoria Park
Coles Express	Esperance
Coles Express	Fremantle
Coles Express	Karawara
Coles Express	Karratha
Coles Express	Karratha
Coles Express	Kewdale
Coles Express	Langford
Coles Express	Leeming
Coles Express	Port Hedland
Coles Express	South Perth
Coles Express	Willetton
Ed Harry	Belmont
Ed Harry	Bentley
Ed Harry	Cannington
Ed Harry	Thornlie
Ed Harry	Willetton
Good Sammy	Armadale
Good Sammy	Canning Vale
Good Sammy	Canning Vale South
Good Sammy	Cannington
Good Sammy	Freemantle
Good Sammy	Gosnells
Good Sammy	Joondalup
Good Sammy	Kwinana
Good Sammy	Midland
Good Sammy	Perth
Good Sammy	Victoria Park
Hambleys Supa IGA	Queens Park
IGA Bentley	Bentley

IGA Rivervale / Supa Valu Rivervale	Rivervale
Kipling market	Narrogin
Kmart	Albany
Kmart	Armadale
Kmart	Belmont
Kmart	Bunbury
Kmart	Cannington
Kmart	Kalgoorlie
Kmart	Karratha
Kmart	Mandurah
Kmart	Midland
Kmart	Mirrabooka
Kmart	Morley
Kmart	South Hedland
KMART TYRE & AUTO KARRATHA STORE 1119SB	Karratha
Kmart Tyre & Auto South Hedland	South Hedland
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Armadale
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Bull Creek
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Bunbury
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Carousel
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Cloverdale
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Karratha
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Mandurah
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Midland
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Mirrabooka
Kmart Tyre and Auto	Morley
Kmart Tyre and Auto	South Hedland
Kmart Tyre and Auto	South Perth
LA CLOTHING FASHION	Kalgoorlie
Southlands Pharmacy	Willetton
Target	Albany
Target	Armadale
Target	Bull Creek
Target	Bunbury
Target	Cannington
Target	Carnarvon
Target	East Victoria Park
Target	Esperance
Target	Fremantle
Target	Geraldton
Target	Kalgoorlie
Target	Karratha
Target	Katanning
Target	Merredin
Target	Midland
Target	Morley
Target	Narrogin
The Salvation Army - Salvos Store Cannington	Cannington
The Salvation Army - Salvos Store Gosnells	Gosnells
The Salvation Army - Salvos Store Kelmscott	Kelmscott
The Salvation Army - Salvos Store South Lakes	South Lakes
The Salvation Army - Salvos Store Southern River	Southern River
Wizard Warehouse Pharmacy Cannington	Cannington
Woolworths Supermarket	Bassendean

Woolworths Supermarket	Bentley
Woolworths Supermarket	Cannington
Woolworths Supermarket	Riverton
Woolworths Supermarket	Victoria Park
Woolworths Supermarket	Victoria Park
Woolworths Supermarkets	Belmont
Woolworths Supermarkets	Midland
Woolworths Supermarkets	Midland

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Senate Community Affairs Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 27 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Centrelink

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output Group 1

Topic: BasicsCard Merchants

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: CA4

Type of question: Hansard CA11, 27 February 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 April 2009

Question:

CA4: Senator Chris Evans—I think the officer cannot tell you that, Senator. I think it stands to reason, given the nature of casualisation in a lot of the retail area, that there would be staff who were not trained. My own son when he was on the checkouts at the IGAs I suspect started within hours of arriving at the shop. Would he have been trained in it? I doubt it very much. I think we all accept that. What the officer is saying is that best endeavours are made to make sure that appropriate staff are trained. I guess we need to take on notice whether or not there is any evidence that special lanes are being used, which I think you are getting to. We can make best inquiries about that. The idea is that staff be trained to be sensitive in handling these things, but we would not give an assurance that all staff have been trained because we know that would not be the case, given the casualisation in retail. But the officer will take on notice the question about whether or not people are being directed towards one lane.

Answer:

CA4: Centrelink does not have any evidence of merchants creating separate queues for BasicsCard customers.

Number of pages: 1

Senate Community Affairs Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 27 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Human Services

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output Group 1

Topic: Details of the BasicsCard Unplanned Outage on 16 and 17 January 2009

Senator: Boyce

Question reference number: CA1

Type of question: Hansard CA7, 27 February 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 April 2009

Question:

CA1: Ms Johnson—Firstly, you previously asked a question about the nature of the breakdown, so I will answer that question first and then go to the other. The sort of breakdown is actually quite rare and the companies that support the BasicsCard are now implementing, or have implemented, a more rigorous monitoring and alerting regime around those systems that support that. The total period of the outage was 13 hours and 46 minutes over that period. It was intermittent during that time.

Senator BOYCE—Could you give us the start and finish times of those 13 hours, please.

Ms Johnson—I could provide that on notice. There was a series of minutes and then hours.

Answer:

CA1: The detailed timings of the outages are as follows:

Date of Outage	Start	End	Outage Duration
16 January 2009	10:22	10:53	31m
	12:52	12:55	3m
	14:50	14:56	6m
	20:02	00:00	3h 58m
17 January 2009	00:00	07:45	7h 45m Total time of outage 11h 43m
	10:11	10:16	5m
	17:40	17:46	6m
	17:51	17:59	8m
	18:13	18:16	3m
	18:57	19:00	3m
	20:44	20:47	3m
	21:27	21:31	4m
	22:10	22:14	4m

18 January 2009	00:00	00:47	47m Planned outage to replace faulty hardware
Total			13h 46m

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