

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0916\_12

**Senator Back provided in writing.**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0918\_10; EW0035\_12; & EW0523\_12.*

**Question**

**Commissioned Reports**

- (a) How many reports were commissioned by the government in your portfolio in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- (b) How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
  - How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
  - What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer**

- (a) Please refer to previous answers to questions on notice EW0918\_10; EW0035\_12; and EW0523\_12.
- (b) There have been five reports commissioned by the government for the 2011-12 financial year to date. See Attachment A for details.

## Attachment A

Name of Report	Details of report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.	Estimated Cost of the Report	How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?	What is the current status of the Report?	When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
<p>1. Review of Funding for Schooling - Final Report</p>	<p>The Review of Funding for Schooling was announced by the former Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, on 15 April 2010.</p> <p>The review was conducted by a panel of eminent Australians, chaired by David Gonski AC, and also including Ken Boston AO, Kathryn Greiner AO, Carmen Lawrence, Bill Scales AO and Peter Tannock AM.</p> <p>The review was guided by Terms of reference that were released on 9 July 2010. The review's Terms of Reference were broad, and required the review to provide advice to Government on funding system for the period beyond 2013 which is transparent, fair, financially sustainable and effective in promoting excellent educational outcomes for all Australian students. The review's Terms of reference are available online at:  <a href="http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/ReviewofFunding/Pages/TermsOfReference.aspx">http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/ReviewofFunding/Pages/TermsOfReference.aspx</a></p> <p>The <i>Review of Funding for Schooling - Final Report</i> was provided to the Australian Government on 20 December 2011, and was released by the Australian Government on 20 February 2012. The report is available online at:  <a href="http://www.schoolfunding.gov.au/node/7">http://www.schoolfunding.gov.au/node/7</a></p>	<p>The approximate cost of the review (excl GST) is \$2.65m. This includes Secretariat Expenses, Panel Expenses and Research Consultancy Expenses.</p>	<p>The review was announced in April 2010 and it took a couple of months to establish and fully staff the review Secretariat.</p> <p>Once established, from June 2010 to December 2011, the Review of Funding for Schooling Secretariat was broadly staffed at the following level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SES 1 – 1</li> <li>EL2 – 4.5</li> <li>EL1 – 6.5</li> <li>APS6 – 1</li> <li>APS5 – 2</li> <li>APS4 – 1</li> </ul>	<p>Complete and delivered to government.</p>	<p>The Australian Government released its preliminary response to the review on 20 February 2012.</p>
<p>2. Responsive School Support Project</p>	<p>The project aims to design and develop support mechanisms that will enable schools serving Indigenous communities to more effectively address the problems restricting student achievements. The President and the Executive Director of the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) wrote to the Department 7 October 2010 requesting funding. The Project was approved for DEEWR funding on 30 November 2010 by Minister Garrett.</p>	<p>\$502 428</p>	<p>2 staff, EL2 &amp; APS 6</p>	<p>Awaiting final report</p>	<p>No response required.</p>

Name of Report	Details of report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.	Estimated Cost of the Report	How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?	What is the current status of the Report?	When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
3. Trial of a National Model for the collection of consistent data regarding school students with disability	<p>The trial and subsequent report was commissioned at AEEYSOC on 18 November 2010.</p> <p>The report was publically released in October 2011.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee are at <a href="#">Attachment B</a>.</p> <p>The Steering Committee Members are at <a href="#">Attachment C</a>.</p>	\$1.4 Million for the national trial and subsequent report.	<p>Up to 8 Departmental staff were involved at various times in the national trial as part of their overall duties.</p> <p>These staff included: Deputy Secretary, Group Manager, Branch Manager, EL2, EL1 x2, APS6, and APS4.</p>	Public	No response required
4. Evaluation of the Youth Connections Reducing Substance Abuse Pilot Project 2011 and 2012	<p>Urbis Pty Ltd was commissioned on 8 August 2011 to undertake the evaluation.</p> <p>The purpose of the evaluation is to inform DEEWR on the success of the implementation of the Pilot Projects, their impact on young people at risk and how to position the Reducing Substance Abuse Program for the future. The completion date for the evaluation report is 25 June 2012. A reference group was established to oversee the evaluation. DEEWR chairs a reference group and convenes regular teleconferences to monitor progress.</p>	\$152 000 (GST exclusive)	<p>One DEEWR officer manages the evaluation project as part of their overall duties. Three DEEWR officers are represented on the reference group.</p>	In progress	Following acceptance of the evaluation report by DEEWR.
5. Post Implementation Review of the Fair Work Act	<p>Date commissioned: 5 Jan 2012 Report due to Government: 31 May 2012 Date of public release: After 31 May 2012 Terms of reference released: 20 Dec 2011 Review Panel: Dr John Edwards, the Hon Michael Moore, Professor Emeritus Ron McCallum AO.</p>	\$750,000	<p>Seven staff, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x SES B1</li> <li>• 1 x EL2</li> <li>• 1 x EL2 (part-time)</li> <li>• 2 x EL1</li> <li>• 1 x APS6</li> <li>• 1 x APS5</li> </ul>	In progress	After 31 May 2012



## **Steering Committee to Oversight the Trial of the National Model for Identifying Students with Disability who are Provided with Additional Educational Needs**

### **Terms Of Reference**

#### Background

On 18 November 2010 the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Senior Officials Committee (AEEYSOC) agreed to trial a proposed model for identifying students with disability who are provided with additional educational support. The trial will take place in the first half of 2011 with the outcomes to be reported to AEEYSOC in the latter half of the year.

DEEWR will be engaging an external consultant through an open tender process to manage the trial on behalf of the Australian Government. To oversight the trial, DEEWR is planning to convene a Steering Committee.

#### Membership

The Steering Committee will include senior officials from the following agencies:

- the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (chair);
- each of the State and territory government education authorities; and
- a representative of the catholic and independent education sectors.

#### Role

The Steering Committee will:

- oversight the management of the project to trial the National Model for Identifying Students with Disability who are Provided with Additional Educational Needs;
- provide comment on the Request for Tender documentation;
- assist with the evaluation and selection of the successful tenderer;
- meet with the successful tenderer and approve the Project Plan;
- facilitate introductions for the successful tenderer as required;
- receive regular updates from the successful consultant and provide feedback as required; and
- provide comment on the draft evaluation report.

**Steering Committee Membership**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ms Cathy Wall (Committee Chair) Mr Greg Wells (Secretariat) Mr Matt Davies Ms Carolyn Stanistreet	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Dr Mark Collis	ACT Department of Education and Training
Ms Christine Albans	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
Ms Jan Batchelor	Department of Education (Tas)
Mr Peter White	Department of Education and Training (NT)
Ms Jeanette McMullan	Department of Education and Children's Services (SA)
Mr Brian Smyth King	Department of Education and Training (NSW)
Ms Suzanne Rothwell	Department of Education and Training (QLD)
Mr Boyd Paties	Department of Education and Training (QLD)
Ms Debra Shaw	Department of Education and Training (WA)
Mr Mark Tainsh	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Vic)
Ms Cate Pinnington	Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA)
Mr Tim Smith	National Catholic Education Commission