

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1196_12

Senator Scullion asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 48

Question

SEAM - reasonable attendance - difference in definition NT and Qld

Senator SCULLION: What are the specific differences in the trigger between the Northern Territory and Queensland? Mr Matheson: In Queensland, as I said, it is up to the discretion of the school, so the school decides whether attendance is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Senator SCULLION: Will each school have a different trigger in Queensland? Ms Hanlon: Could be. Mr Matheson: Could do, yes, that is right. Senator SCULLION: Do the ones within the SEAM trial? Ms Paul: I will just see if we know. Senator SCULLION: I am not being pedantic. Are there significant differences between them? Mr Matheson: It is probably something we could take on notice. It relies on the Queensland authorities making the referral to Centrelink, so it is not based on a benchmark that we impose. It is something that we would have to have a look at and get back to you, I think, on that question.

Answer

The Queensland Department of Education and Training has advised that a school's decision to refer a parent to SEAM is contingent generally on two factors. One factor is the school's knowledge of the parents concerned, including barriers they face, level of disadvantage and capacity to make effective change. The second factor is the level of support in place or available to parents to enable the school to make a school based intervention without having to make a referral to SEAM.