

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1209_12

Senator McKenzie asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 64

Question

ACMA student mentoring pilot

Senator McKENZIE: So, will one of the things on the agenda be ACMA's student mentoring pilot? Mr Davies: I cannot recall off the top of my head, but I would be able to check that out. Senator McKENZIE: How often does AEEYSOC meet? Ms Paul: I am not completely sure what the routine is. It would meet between four and eight times a year, but probably more like five or six. Senator McKENZIE: Can you give us the last two years? Ms Paul: Yes. The dates are generally attached to ministerial council dates. Senator McKENZIE: Understanding that you are in discussions and it is a priority for the next meeting, when do you expect you will get agreement on implementing the mentoring pilot? Mr Davies: As I said, I cannot recall the details of that one off the top of my head, so I am not sure even whether there has been a decision to do that or not. Senator McKENZIE: There might not have been a decision, so I am asking for your expectation. Mr Davies: I do not know. I would need to talk with ACMA, if it is in their domain. I could ask them what they anticipate the time line is for consideration. Senator McKENZIE: That would be good. I would like some comment around the progress that has been made towards investigating the feasibility of a nationally consistent legislative approach to add certainty to the authority of schools to deal with incidents of inappropriate student behaviour in and outside of school hours. Ms Paul: You are going to the definitional issues again. Mr Cook: It is a bit further than that. Senator McKENZIE: Yes, it is a bit further than that. It is about a legislative and nationally consistent legislative approach. Mr Davies: Can I take that on notice?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in consultation with the Australian Media and Communications Authority (ACMA) has provided the following response:

Please see table below for AEEYSOC dates for 2010-2011.

The Australian Government has prepared a consolidated response to the Joint Select Committee on Cyber-safety's interim report *High-Wire Act: Cyber-safety and the Young*. The response was tabled in Parliament in December 2011. The department is currently drafting a cybersafety paper in consultation with Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to go to AEEYSOC in May 2012.

From 20 June 2011, amendments to the Sex and Age Discrimination Legislation Amendment Act 2011 came into force. Students of any age are now legally protected from sexual harassment. Students are also legally protected from sexual harassment by adult students and staff members from other institutions that they may come into contact with through inter-school events such as sports carnivals and school formals.

These amendments provide greater protection for children from sexual harassment, particularly where it may occur through the use of modern technology, such as texting or the use of social networking sites.

ACMA student mentoring program update

The ACMA piloted a Cybersmart student mentoring program in March 2011. Students were trained and then guided to develop and deliver their own presentations and workshops building on content from the Outreach program's internet safety awareness presentations.

In addition to the pilot program, Cybersmart Outreach has developed a module in its customised professional development program for teachers that focuses on providing opportunities for student-to-student mentoring.

The module allows teachers to explore various ways of implementing Cybersafety Programs run for young people by young people within existing school curriculum and pastoral based programs. By providing students the opportunity to educate others, they will obtain their own learning as a side product including skills of empathy, communication and positive citizenship – online and offline. The ACMA anticipates rolling this module out into schools by June 2012.

AEEYSOC meeting dates

AEEYSOC MEETING	NOTES
2011	
25 February 2011	
1 April 2011	Pre-MCEECDYA Meeting
10 June 2011	Pre-MCEECDYA Meeting
30 September 2011	Pre-MCEECDYA Meeting
2 December 2011	
2010	
12 March 2010	
14 May 2010	pre-MCEECDYA meeting
23 July 2010	
17 September 2010	pre-MCEECDYA meeting
17 November 2010	pre-MCEECDYA meeting
3 December 2010	