

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0458\_14**

**Senator O'Neill asked on 26 February 2014, Hansard page 111**

**Question**

***Youth Connections program***

Senator O'NEILL: What are the outcome rates on your latest report over that period of time? Mr Cook: With the Youth Connections program, every state and territory had identified particular targets. My understanding is that many of those targets, unfortunately, were not met. I will seek some correction. Mr Hehir: Approximately 57 per cent of the participants achieved a final outcome, which represented a re-engagement with education, training or employment. A further 18 per cent made significant progress in addressing their barriers to engagement. Senator O'NEILL: That is a substantial number of students when the target of engagement is 74,000 students. Mr Hehir: The 74,000 was over a longer period. The figures I quoted were for 2013, which was approximately 26,000 students. Senator O'NEILL: Do you have the figures for 2010, 2011 and 2012? Mr Hehir: I will take that on notice.

**Answer**

In 2010, there were approximately 21,320 participants in the Youth Connections programme. 55 per cent of the participants achieved a final outcome, which represents re-engagement with education, training or employment. A further 13 per cent achieved a progressive outcome, which represents making significant progress addressing their barriers to engagement.

In 2011, there were approximately 27,370 participants in the programme. 58 per cent of the participants achieved a final outcome; a further 13 per cent achieved a progressive outcome.

In 2012, there were approximately 26,800 participants in the programme. 59 per cent of the participants achieved a final outcome; a further 14 per cent achieved a progressive outcome.

Young people can be enrolled in the programme more than once over various calendar years and outcomes can be achieved in multiple enrolments. This means that adding participant numbers by individual year will not match participant numbers over multiple years, i.e. the life of the programme.