

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW0075_10

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

youTHINK forum

How many **youTHINK** forums have there been? What was the cost of these Forums? Can you provide a breakdown of all costs associated with the Forums? Who was invited to these forums? Who hosted the Forums? Who decided who was invited? Has the Shadow Minister or a member of the Opposition been invited to take part in any of these Forums?

Answer

There have been two **youTHINK** forums held to date.

The cost of the first **youTHINK** forum, held on 20 February 2009, was \$398,880, including:

- Professional facilitation services - \$84,944
- Technical, Venue, Catering and Stationary Provider - HOYTS - \$269,749
- Forum promotion - \$14,847
- Master of Ceremonies - \$9,697
- Photographer at host site -\$2,000
- Event participant resources and support - \$3,738
- Steering Committee (travel and accommodation) -- \$13,905

All young Australians aged 15-24 years were invited to attend the first forum through an open invitation on the AYF website, youth networks and schools. **YouTHINK** was hosted by the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth.

The second '**youTHINK**, Your Say' event was held on 30 June 2009 and was organised in partnership with the Salvation Army and with the involvement of many more non-government organisations who work with and for young people.

The cost of the second forum is \$286,000 (GST inclusive). No breakdown of costs is available as the Salvation Army were funded to organise this event.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds were targeted for this event. Participants were invited by the Salvation Army and/or organisations involved. Federal MPs were advised about events in their electorates.