

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0390_11

Senator Crossin asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 86.

Question

The Review of the SEAM program

Senator CROSSIN—All right. Also, attendance: can you tell me about the review of the SEAM program? Who is conducting it and where is it at? Ms Hanlon—We may have to take that on notice so that the appropriate person— Ms Paul—Basically, the review of the SEAM has found it to be ‘probably useful’, but we were bogging it down in some red tape. Senator CROSSIN—The review of SEAM has been found to be useful? Ms Paul—I am talking about SEAM. This is where the review is heading. Senator CROSSIN—Do you have evidence that people who have been captured under SEAM are sending their kids to school more regularly? Ms Paul—I will have to check that out for you.

Answer

A July 2009 interim evaluation report on SEAM in the Northern Territory indicated that the enrolment component of SEAM has shown a high level of compliance by parents in reporting their children’s school enrolment details to Centrelink. The attendance component of SEAM had only just commenced at the time the report was written and therefore the report could not comment on parental compliance with the attendance component.

As a result of additional funding received in the 2010-11 Budget, SEAM has been extended in the trial sites until 30 June 2011. Following this date a final evaluation of SEAM will be undertaken by the Department. The extension of the trial will ensure the evaluation is able to consider the effectiveness of SEAM on both enrolment and attendance over a full school year in Queensland and the Northern Territory.