

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0230_12

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Education Including SEAM

"1. Has the Federal Government had any discussions with State and Territory Governments over establishing sound fields in classroom with a large number of Aboriginal students? a. If so, what progress has been made? b. If not, why not? "

Answer

In the 2009-2012 quadrennium the Australian Government has more than doubled its investment in education to more than \$64.9 billion. Under these arrangements states and territories have flexibility in developing local solutions to assist with education outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, including supporting students with hearing impairment.

In 2009 the Australian Government provided funding of \$1.3 million to support the Kimberley Sound Amplification Project. This cross sectoral project provided sound amplification equipment for all classrooms in Kimberley schools in the Government, Catholic and Independent sectors.

Under the Smarter Schools and Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnerships, funding has been provided to support the Northern Territory Department of Education to install Sound Field Systems in targeted remote schools, and provide enhanced services and support for students with conductive hearing loss.

Further discussions with states and territories will be progressed in the context of the implementation of the \$200 million *More Support for Students with Disabilities* initiative, which will be funded during the 2012 and 2013 school years. The funding will be used by education authorities to increase support for students with disability by building the capacity of schools and teachers to better meet the needs of students. The Australian Government will negotiate with education authorities over the choice of activities to be undertaken. This is expected to include sound amplification systems.