

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0068\_13

**Senator Back provided in writing.**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0916\_12*

**Question**

**Commissioned Reports**

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer**

There have been six reports commissioned by the Government for the 2011-12 financial year to date. Details of the six reports are attached.

Name of Report	Details of report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.	Estimated Cost of the Report	How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?	What is the current status of the Report?	When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
1. Barriers to Mature Age Employment: Final Report of the Consultative Forum on Mature Age Participation	<p>The Consultative Forum on Mature Age participation was announced on 18 February 2010. Terms of Reference and full membership can be found at <a href="http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/ExpPlus/Pages/ConsultForum.aspx">http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/ExpPlus/Pages/ConsultForum.aspx</a></p>	\$30 000	Report's drafting was outsourced to the Productive Ageing Centre (National Seniors). Relationship and Contract Management 0.2 x EL2	Executive Summary handed to government 30 May 2012. Full Report provided to Government in June for consideration.	TBC
2. Post-implementation review of the Fair Work Act	<p>Minister Shorten announced the appointment of the Fair Work Act Review Panel and the Review's Terms of Reference on 20 December 2011.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference are available at: <a href="http://www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/Policies/FairWorkActReview/Pages/TermsOfReference.aspx">http://www.deewr.gov.au/WorkplaceRelations/Policies/FairWorkActReview/Pages/TermsOfReference.aspx</a>.</p> <p>The Review Panel comprised Dr John Edwards, the Hon Michael Moore and Professor Emeritus Ron McCallum AO.</p> <p>The report was provided to Government on 15 June 2012</p>	Approximately \$900 000. This includes secretariat expenses, panel expenses and publication expenses.	1 x SES Band 1 1 x EL2 2 x EL1 1 x APS6 1 x APS5	Complete and delivered to government.	The report is under consideration.

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3. Evaluation of the Youth Connections Reducing Substance Abuse Pilot Project 2011 and 2012	<p>Urbis Pty Ltd was commissioned on 8 August 2011 to undertake the evaluation. The completion date for the evaluation is 31 July 2012.</p> <p>The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of delivering the Reducing Substance Abuse Program through the mainstream Youth Connections Program.</p> <p>A reference group chaired by DEEWR oversees the evaluation.</p>	\$152 000 (GST exclusive)	<p>One DEEWR officer manages the evaluation project as part of their overall duties EL1</p> <p>DEEWR officers are represented on the reference group. 1 x EL2 1 x EL1 1 x APS6</p>	Draft report submitted to DEEWR for comment 13 June 2012	Following acceptance of the evaluation report by DEEWR.
4. Review of Funding for Schooling – Final Report	<p>The Review was commissioned 15 April 2010 and handed to Government December 2011. Publicly released on 20 February 2012.</p> <p>Terms of Reference are at <a href="#">Attachment A</a></p> <p>Committee members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ David Gonski AC (Chair)</li> <li>○ Ken Boston AO</li> <li>○ Kathryn Greiner AO</li> <li>○ Carmen Lawrence</li> <li>○ Bill Scales AO</li> <li>○ Peter Tannock AM</li> </ul>	\$2.65m (GST exclusive)	<p>The review was announced in April 2010 and it took a couple of months to establish and fully staff the review Secretariat.</p> <p>Once established, from June 2010 to December 2011, the Review of Funding for Schooling Secretariat was broadly staffed at the following level: 1 x SES Band 1 4.5 x EL2 6.5 x EL1 1 x APS6 2 x APS5</p>	Initial response from government released 20 February 2012	Initial response from government released 20 February 2012

Name of Report	Details of report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.	Estimated Cost of the Report	How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?	What is the current status of the Report?	When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
5. Trial of a National Model for the collection of consistent data regarding school students with disability	<p>The trial and subsequent report was commissioned at AEEYSOC on 18 November 2010.</p> <p>The report was publicly released in October 2011.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee are at <a href="#">Attachment B</a>.</p> <p>The Steering Committee Members are at <a href="#">Attachment C</a>.</p>	\$1.4 Million for the national trial and subsequent report.	<p>Up to 8 Departmental staff were involved at various times in the national trial as part of their overall duties.</p> <p>These staff included:  1 x Deputy Secretary,  1 x Group Manager,  1 x Branch Manager,  1 x EL2,  2 x EL1  1 x APS6  1 x APS4.</p>	Public	No Response Required.
6. Responsive School Support Project	<p>The project aims to design and develop support mechanisms that will enable schools serving Indigenous communities to more effectively address the problems restricting student achievements. The President and the Executive Director of the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) wrote to the Department 7 October 2010 requesting funding. The Project was approved for DEEWR funding on 30 November 2010 by Minister Garrett.</p>	\$502 428	1 x EL2 1 x APS6	Awaiting final report	No response required

## **Final Terms of Reference for the Review of Funding for Schooling**

The Review of Funding for Schooling will report to the Minister with responsibility for school education.

### **Purpose**

The review will provide recommendations to the Minister with responsibility for school education on the future funding arrangements for schooling in Australia for the period beyond 2013.

The review's recommendations will be directed towards achieving a funding system for the period beyond 2013 which is transparent, fair, financially sustainable and effective in promoting excellent educational outcomes for all Australian students.

In making its recommendations, the review should consider the following issues:

### Supporting educational outcomes

1. The role of funding arrangements in supporting improved educational outcomes, including:
  - a) links between school resourcing and educational outcomes; and
  - b) funding allocation mechanisms that address current barriers to educational achievement such as English language proficiency, indigeneity, location, disability and special needs, and other disadvantaged groups such as low socio-economic areas and other concentrations of disadvantage.
2. The roles of families, parents, communities and other institutions in providing or supporting educational partnerships with schools.

### Allocation of funding

3. The roles of the Australian and state and territory governments in providing funding for schooling.
4. The baseline level and allocation of funding for schools, including:
  - a) costs of ensuring all students have access to a world class education;
  - b) factors influencing growth in costs and whether current indexation arrangements are appropriate;
  - c) supply and demand considerations including the likely growth and distribution of demand and student need, based on current student enrolment trends and projections;
  - d) cost drivers of school funding, including teaching, capital, technology and other costs of schooling;
  - e) place of voluntary and private contributions and other income sources in school funding arrangements for government and non-government schools; and

- f) role of government funding in providing parents with choice among diverse schools.

#### Funding mechanisms

- 5. The most effective means of distributing funding for schooling, including:
  - a) the different funding models used in States and Territories and relevant overseas examples, especially in high performing school systems, and how these may link to outcomes in their respective education systems;
  - b) the best funding mechanism(s) for delivering optimal educational outcomes, financial efficiency and sustainability, including whether a basic entitlement for every student is required and how this could be defined and determined;
  - c) ways to increase the simplicity, transparency and effectiveness of school funding arrangements, including the forms of school and system-level autonomy within those arrangements that best support improved educational outcomes; and
  - d) the transitional assistance that should be offered to schools in making the transition to any new system.

#### Accountability and regulation

- 6. What forms of accountability, transparency and regulation are necessary to promote high standards of delivery and probity among schools receiving public funding, and the data required to monitor and assess these standards of delivery and educational outcomes.

**Steering Committee to Oversight the Trial of the National Model for Identifying Students with Disability who are Provided with Additional Educational Needs**

**Terms of Reference**

Background

On 18 November 2010 the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Senior Officials Committee (AEEYSOC) agreed to trial a proposed model for identifying students with disability who are provided with additional educational support. The trial will take place in the first half of 2011 with the outcomes to be reported to AEEYSOC in the latter half of the year. DEEWR will be engaging an external consultant through an open tender process to manage the trial on behalf of the Australian Government. To oversight the trial, DEEWR is planning to convene a Steering Committee.

Membership

The Steering Committee will include senior officials from the following agencies:

- the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (chair);
- each of the State and territory government education authorities; and
- a representative of the catholic and independent education sectors.

Role

The Steering Committee will:

- oversight the management of the project to trial the National Model for Identifying Students with Disability who are Provided with Additional Educational Needs;
- provide comment on the Request for Tender documentation;
- assist with the evaluation and selection of the successful tenderer;
- meet with the successful tenderer and approve the Project Plan;
- facilitate introductions for the successful tenderer as required;
- receive regular updates from the successful consultant and provide feedback as required; and
- provide comment on the draft evaluation report.

**Steering Committee Membership**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ms Cathy Wall (Committee Chair) Mr Greg Wells (Secretariat) Mr Matt Davies Ms Carolyn Stanistreet	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Dr Mark Collis	ACT Department of Education and Training
Ms Christine Albans	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
Ms Jan Batchelor	Department of Education (Tas)
Mr Peter White	Department of Education and Training (NT)
Ms Jeanette McMullan	Department of Education and Children's Services (SA)
Mr Brian Smyth King	Department of Education and Training (NSW)
Ms Suzanne Rothwell	Department of Education and Training (QLD)
Mr Boyd Paties	Department of Education and Training (QLD)
Ms Debra Shaw	Department of Education and Training (WA)
Mr Mark Tainsh	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Vic)
Ms Cate Pinnington	Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA)
Mr Tim Smith	National Catholic Education Commission