

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

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

**Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0389\_13

**Senator Nash asked on 31 May 2012, Hansard page 27**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW1015\_12.*

**Question**

**The Listening Tour**

Ms Hanlon: Last year I was the head of the secretariat for the review and the panel. My understanding is that there was a series of discussions and meetings in the early stages of the review, so panel members went independently to various schools. They called it 'the listening tour'. They actually listened to a whole range of stakeholders. They met with many stakeholders across the education community. I would not be able to tell you whether they actually met with specific stakeholders from regional areas. I would have to take it on notice. I cannot tell you that right now. Senator NASH: Could you take it on notice? Ms Hanlon: I certainly can. Ms Paul: And I will take on notice about the current consultations—which I have, in part, taken on notice for Senator Mason as well, but I will go into more detail. I do not have that in front of me here.

**Answer**

A total of 11 schools out of 43 schools and campuses visited by panel members undertaking the Review of Funding for Schooling were in regional and rural Australia. Following the release of the final report of the Review of Funding for Schooling on 20 February 2012, the Australian Government has been carrying out a nation-wide consultation process with Australian families, teachers, principals and the wider community. This has included a number of community forums and school visits in a range of locations, including regional areas.

The Government will continue to consult with schools, communities and stakeholders. The Government will utilise technology such as live streaming and social media such as Facebook and Twitter to assist in achieving full geographical reach across Australia.