

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0661_11

Senator Nash asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 78.

Question

COMPACT WITH YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Senator NASH—Can I just have a general update on the Compact with Young Australians—where it is at and how the department is tracking the success of the program? Ms Paul—Sure. Organisationally speaking, the Compact with Young Australians would often have come up yesterday but I think we are right to cover it. Senator NASH—I am certain that there is not going to be anything detailed. If there is something you cannot answer now I am happy for you to take it on notice. I am really just after a background briefing of where it is at and how you are going to measure its success. Ms Paul—As far as I am aware, and I will take it on notice to give you a precise picture

Answer

The Compact with Young Australians consists of three elements.

1. The National Youth Participation Requirement is implemented through jurisdictions' legislation. As required, jurisdictions amended legislation such that the National Youth Participation Requirement has been in effect since 1 January 2010.
2. The entitlement to an education or training place is implemented by the states and territories through their school and VET systems. It has been in effect for 15 to 19 year olds from 1 July 2009, and for 20 to 24 year olds from 1 January 2010.
3. Strengthened participation requirements for Youth Allowance (other) and Family Tax Benefit (Part A) have been enacted through federal legislation administered by DEEWR and FaHCSIA respectively. Following transition periods, since 1 July 2010 all Youth Allowance (other) and Family Tax Benefit (Part A) recipients have been subject to the strengthened arrangements.

The education and training entitlement element of the Compact will be reviewed in April 2011 by COAG Senior Officials who will report to COAG on the effectiveness of the entitlement and make recommendations to COAG on whether the entitlement should be extended past 31 December 2011, taking into account economic conditions (National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, Clause 40, page 8).

The Compact is delivered under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. The Department is working with the states and territories to develop an evaluation strategy for the National Partnership which will consider quantitative and

qualitative measures that could be reported on. As an element of the National Partnership, the Compact with Young Australians will be included in this evaluation.

An overarching evaluation of the Jobs and Training Compact will include consideration of the Compact with Young Australian's changes to Youth Allowance (other). A final report will be completed during 2011.