

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0196\_14

**Senator Mason asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 14**

**Question**

**University of Tasmania youth clearing house services (CN1239282)**

Mr Manthorpe: This is quite a longstanding arrangement. We have had a contractual or grant relationship with this entity, which is based in the University of Tasmania, since back in the 1980s, as I understand it. Essentially what the clearing house does for us is that it gathers, makes available and disseminates information particularly relating to youth. In effect, it is a kind of—this might now be almost an old-fashioned term—library. It gathers material and makes it available to the youth sector and to academics to enable deeper research. It takes reference inquiries and that kind of thing. It also produces a newsletter and runs a website, which you can go on and find out information specifically about youth across a range of topical areas of interest. Senator MASON: You just touched on this, but let me ask a more specific question. How does it add value? Mr Manthorpe: Essentially, there is no other entity that performs this function around Australia, so it adds value by making available in a form that is accessible to youth and accessible to youth sector people material for research, analysis and so forth. Ms Paul: The context for this is this is part of our whole-of-government responsibility through the Office for Youth. Senator MASON: So they do not actually conduct empirical work themselves? Ms Paul: No, they draw it together like a normal clearing house, if you are familiar with the concept of a clearing house. In modern speak, you might call it a portal. Mr Manthorpe: Yes, you are more modern than me, Ms Paul. Ms Paul: I hate to say it, but that is the notion. Mr Manthorpe: They do literature searches and things like that. Ms Paul: It is relevant that I say it is part of our whole-of-government responsibilities. Senator MASON: Do they critique the literature? Mr Manthorpe: I am not sure. Senator MASON: I am asking if they have a critical policy function as opposed to simply a collection and disbursement function. Mr Manthorpe: I think they have developed some expertise over time, but to give a precise answer to that question I would have to take it on notice.

**Answer**

The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS), hosted by the University of Tasmania, is the only youth specific clearinghouse in Australia. The primary role of the clearinghouse is to collect and make accessible the most up-to-date information on youth, through a monthly e-newsletter (Youth Field Xpress), helpdesk, online library services and a comprehensive website. The Australian Government is also sourcing a range of new products and services from ACYS which include briefing papers, webinars/podcasts and case studies showcasing solutions focussed best practice on areas of concern identified by young people and the youth sector. These

products and services are being procured to better support the information and research requirements of the youth sector, young people and government.