

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0236_14

Senator Back asked on 6 June 2013, Hansard page 7

Question

Parental and Community Engagement - case studies

Senator BACK: If one of the factors has been getting parents and carers to the schools—and I am glad you mentioned carers, because in a lot of instances they would be grandparents—are the projects aimed in any way at getting the parents and other community members into the school environment? If so, can you give us some indication of how those projects are working? Mr Davies: Definitely. I could give you on notice a raft of case studies if you are interested. As you are aware, there are different ways they do that; but, yes, they definitely aim at assisting parents to get engaged in school in a variety of ways. Ms Houston might offer some extra advice on that. Ms Houston: That primarily is the aim. Parents have often had bad experiences at school themselves and so do not necessarily feel confident about engaging with teachers in the school environment. Quite a lot of the projects are about building that confidence and helping them to reach in, meeting teachers and teaching staff halfway. We could certainly get some case studies of that kind of material, but that is really the aim of the program. Senator BACK: I would appreciate those if you could get them. Finally, I am also interested in knowing what role, if any, the teachers themselves—particularly the school executive like principals and deputies—play in this parent-carer community engagement. If you could give me some advice on that on notice, I would also be appreciative to have that understanding. Mr Davies: Certainly. Ms Houston: I would like to add that primarily this program is focused on actions for the parents themselves. We have a range of other things that we do through the schooling system and other related initiatives which are about what the teachers and the parents do in the classroom. This one primarily focuses on the parents' role; there are other initiatives that focus on helping teachers to reach out. Senator BACK: Thank you. So those case studies will inform me enormously. I have no other questions in that area.

Answer

Information on the following Parent and Community Engagement Projects is provided:

- Dolls and Yarning
- Cherbourg Barmabah Community
- The Trackers 'Returning Communities'
- Weung Beung (Mother/Father)
- Lockhart River
- Empowering Parents
- Murray Bridge Parent School Engagement.