

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0339_15

Senator O'Neill asked on 4 June 2014, Hansard page 140

Question

Broadband Enabled Education and Skills Services Programme

Senator O'NEILL: On the broadband enabled education program, would you explain for me what is going on in that item line there? Ms Bloor: That program is continuing as planned. The 13 projects that are supported through the program are rolling out services and they will be doing that through 2014 and into 2015. There has been no change to the program. Senator O'NEILL: Exactly what are they doing? Ms Bloor: They are providing a variety of services across the VET, schools and tertiary sector that are trialling innovative technologies in areas covering students with disabilities, science and maths studies and all those sorts of things. Senator O'NEILL: Would you be able to provide some further detail on notice about the program? Ms Bloor: Absolutely. Senator O'NEILL: Can you also indicate where that program is intersecting with sites where the National Broadband Network fibre to the premises is operating? Senator McKENZIE: Do you really want that answer? Senator O'NEILL: I would like to know where there might be some problems. Senator McKENZIE: And the rollout plans? Senator O'NEILL: I think there is an intersection with that. The capacity to have broadband enabled education for people with disabilities is absolutely imperative. Ms Bloor: There has been an increase in the take-up of services in the program in the last several months since the requirement to use fibre to the premises has actually been loosened, so it is simply high-speed broadband now. Senator O'NEILL: The technology delivery capacity is something that I am interested in as well. Ms Bloor: Yes, certainly we can provide that.

Answer

The Broadband Enabled Education and Skills Services (BEESS) programme was established to trial delivery of innovative education and skills training services via high speed broadband technology. Thirteen projects are being supported with summary information on each provided at Table 1 below.

In addition to fibre to the premises, fibre to the node, hybrid fibre coaxial, very-high-bit-rate digital subscriber line (VDSL) and 4G mobile technologies can all be used provided they are fit for purpose. Details about which technologies are being used by location are not available.

Table 1: Broadband Enabled Education and Skills Services Programme projects

Project	Description
Transforming the Education Digital Supply Chain – Association of Independent Schools of NSW	Enhancing students' learning by providing access to interactive virtual classes, home tutoring, teacher professional development resources and virtual tours.
Telehealth Skills Training and Implementation Project – University of Wollongong	Telehealth skills training and virtual classes to graduate students training to become medical practitioners in regional, rural and remote Australia.
Asia ConneXions Utilizing HD Videoconferencing – University of New England	High definition video conferencing between students participating in Asian languages and studies in 30 Australian schools and students at 30 schools in South Korea, China, India and Indonesia.
Diabetes Health and Wellness Program – Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE	Building an interactive multi-media learning platform and developing and trialling professional development content for TAFE and University health care students on the self-care and management of diabetes.
eLinks Deployment Trial: Enabling TAFE Training – TAFE NSW Hunter Institute	Virtual college to deliver training for residential aged care services, child care services, tourism and hospitality, and small business enterprises.
NBN Virtual School of Emerging Sciences – Monash University	Interactive classes supported by videoconferencing and collaborative tools in science subjects including nanotechnology and quantum physics.
The BEST Network – A Network for Biomedical Education, Skills and Training – University of New South Wales	Delivering biomedical content and virtual classes to a broad cross-section of student and professional groups including use of interactive online laboratory and clinic simulators.
Education 2020: Enabling learning in science, engineering and mathematics – University of New South Wales	Remote access from home and school locations to two Mars rover robots in a 140 sq. metre model of the Mars landscape to conduct experiments. Supplemented by video conferencing with experts in the fields of science, engineering and mathematics.
Victorian Virtual Learning Network - Bendigo Senior Secondary College	Providing senior secondary students in regional and metropolitan areas, as well as students with hearing issues, with access to courses otherwise unavailable to them through high quality, interactive digital content. Courses include commerce, mathematics and science.

Project	Description
AYO Digital Connection Trial - Australian Youth Orchestra	On-line music education and auditioning to pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary level students through: Remote auditions; remote open rehearsals; access to concerts online; streaming of regional residency workshops; and stored video performances for student/teacher reference.
From Bennelong Point to the National – Sydney Opera House Trust	Virtual classes to lift student participation rates in the arts by providing real-time interactive classes in drama, dance and music to students living in remote and regional areas across Australia.
Remote delivery of school-based traineeships to regional and rural students in Victoria – Gordon Institute of TAFE	Virtual classes and HD video conferencing to assist students in regional areas access gaming media training, including access from the home.
Digital Enterprise: Pathways to Education and Employment for Young People with Disabilities Program – University of South Australia	A nationally coordinated suite of collaborative, technology-based skills activities for young people with disabilities including autism spectrum disorders, complex communication needs, acquired brain injuries and/or mobility impairments.