

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW1002\_10**

**Senator Mason asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 43.**

**Question**

**DER - COMPUTER SECURITY**

Senator MASON—I have some questions about computer security, though I am not certain of the import of these questions. I am advised—I put it no higher than that—that some schools in New South Wales are apparently telling students not to share the password to their laptops with their parents. That is what I am being told. Have you heard of that?

Dr Arthur—I have not heard that. It would not surprise me. It would be completely normal policy. In the New South Wales case, that computer is connected with the New South Wales network. The device operates as an integral part of the network, and parents do not have the authority to access all the applications or all the information on that network.

Senator MASON—If parents are concerned about the content of the material that their children might be looking at on the computer, what do we say to them?

Dr Arthur—There are issues in terms of that which I would need to check with the New South Wales authorities on what their policy is on that. It is New South Wales policy. It is controlled by them.

Ms Paul—We will have to take it on notice.

**Answer**

Government and non-government education authorities have primary responsibility for decisions about design, purchase and use of educational hardware and software to meet the specific needs of their schools. The purchase of ICT equipment through the National Secondary School Computer Fund (the Fund) takes place at a state, sector or school level.

The NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) have advised that they will provide laptops for students for their individual use. NSW DET has developed a laptop user charter which sets out the terms and conditions for use of the device, including the use of confidential passwords. They have also provided a technology guide for parents.

This guide covers online security, safety precautions and monitoring usage. Further information on computer security for the NSW laptop rollout, including the laptop user charter can be located on the NSW DET website –

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/highschool/dernsw/index.php>