

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

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

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW1015_10

Senator Payne asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 78.

Question

***ANNUAL REPORT FROM NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION***

Senator PAYNE—Will the annual report that you will receive at the end of March ultimately be a public document? Ms Shugg—That is our intention at this stage. Senator PAYNE—Can you tell the committee what sort of time frame you expect between the receipt of the report and its public release? Ms Shugg—I have not estimated that. Senator PAYNE—Can you take that on notice as a question to consider and respond to the committee, bearing in mind, as we always do, that we are back here in May for budget estimates. Senator CORMANN—Unless there is an election. Senator PAYNE—Well, with 103 per cent of four-year-olds in Western Australia at preschool, I would have thought you could get them along campaign booths, if that happens. Can you take on notice what the time frame between your receipt of the report and its public release. Ms Shugg—Yes.

Answer

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE) and NP ECE bilateral agreements, each state and territory is required to provide its 2009 Annual Report to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2010. The Commonwealth will then undertake detailed assessment of the reports, including conducting a bilateral meeting with each jurisdiction.

Under the NP ECE, the Commonwealth and states and territories are required to publish Annual Reports against the reforms outlined in their bilateral agreements. Subject to the assessment process outlined above, it is expected that the first Annual Reports will be published in 2010.