

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0464\_14**

**Senator Xenophon asked on 26 February 2014, Hansard page 120**

**Question**

***Partnership brokers***

Senator XENOPHON: Chair, can I just ask the government, perhaps on notice—I know it is not the minister's direct portfolio—whether the government will at least consider what the potential impacts will be of closing this program? I am not a betting man but what people have told me is that there is real concern about rates of offending going up—and how much will that cost? Admittedly, state governments pick up the cost of incarceration but, overall, I just don't understand why this program, which has been shown to be beneficial, is just going to get the chop in this way. Senator Payne: I will raise that with Minister Pyne and take it on notice in doing so.

**Answer**

It is a normal matter for government to consider the potential impacts on providers and other stakeholders of programmes reaching the end of their funding.

In the case of School Business Community Partnership Brokers, funding is made available through contracts with service providers to deliver the programme. The programme does not fund partners or partnerships directly but is designed to build the capacity of schools and businesses to develop partnerships in the future.