

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0474_12

Senator Hanson-Young asked on 2/06/2011, Hansard page 57.

Question

Complaints About ACCESS Ministries

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Until the minister made that announcement that there would be an investigation, had the issue of complaints being raised about ACCESS ministries come across your desk previously? Mr Sheedy: Not in this form. Certainly we had had no complaints about proselytisation about ACCESS ministries. I am not in a position to tell you whether or not there had been any previous complaints. I imagine there would have been some, but maybe of an administrative nature. I can take that on notice. There definitely had been, at the time this arose, no complaints received by us about proselytising by ACCESS ministries.

Answer

There has been one previous concern about proselytisation by an ACCESS Ministries chaplain that was raised in 2009 in the context of an annual Progress Report from a school rather than as a complaint direct to the Department. This was investigated and concluded at school level and related to a concern by a school council over the role of their chaplain. The concern was resolved by the school.