

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0139_13

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Body image and disadvantaged/vulnerable young people.

2.10 Students with disabilities

(1) What was the purpose of the research by the University of New South Wales into “body image issues among disadvantaged vulnerable youth”? (2) Has UNSW completed the research project? If so, will the research be made public? What was the nature of the research (survey, literature review, etc)? (3) What was the scope of the research (how big was the sample size, etc)?

Answer

1) The purpose of the research, *‘Body image and Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Youth’* was to explore:

- What body image means to Indigenous young people and young people who are homeless;
- How body image affects these young people; and
- What initiatives could assist in promoting positive body image.

The focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable young people aimed to broaden the understanding of body image concerns for these young people as there is little research that focuses on the particular concerns of disadvantaged young people. Body image has been consistently identified in Mission Australia’s *National Survey of Young Australians* as a top concern for all young people, including vulnerable young people.

2) UNSW has completed the research and the final report was accepted in June 2012 by the Youth Working Group of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood. The report is now being prepared for online publication and will be available to the public.

The research included the following components:

- A literature review of Australian and international literature;
- Fieldwork preparation;
- Data collection; and
- Analysis and report writing.

In the data collection phase young people were recruited to participate in face to face interviews and in two day workshops. Two intensive workshops were conducted –

one with Indigenous young people and one with young people who were homeless. Young people also completed a survey to collect demographic information.

3) The research focussed on two particular groups of disadvantaged/vulnerable young people – indigenous young people and young people who are homeless. Forty- three respondents participated in the study: 36 young people (18 Indigenous young people and 18 homeless young people), 4 service providers and 3 body image experts.