

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW830_09

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Provision of music education

Labor's Election Platform promised that "Labor will also review the issue of the provision of music education through the entire education system, working with State and Territory authorities, teacher employers and with universities to create a comprehensive music education in our schools and educational institutions."

- a) What progress has been made to deliver on the Government's election policy promise to "create a comprehensive music education in our schools and educational institutions"
- b) Has the Government commenced, completed, or failed to deliver on its promised "Review"
- c) Who undertook, or is undertaking the review?
- d) If this promised "Review" has occurred, what were the findings?
- e) If the Government has not commenced its election promise of a Review, when will it occur?

Answer

- a) The Government is supporting music education in schools through a number of initiatives including the National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education, Music. Count Us In and support for the work of The Song Room, Musica Viva in Schools, the Australian Children's Music Foundation and the Music Education Advisory Group. Funding of over \$3.5 million is being provided for these initiatives.

The Draft National Declaration of Educational Goals for Young Australians, recently developed by Australian Ministers for Education, includes the arts (performing and visual) as a key learning area. The draft Declaration includes a commitment by State, Territory and Commonwealth Governments to work together with all school sectors to develop world-class curriculum in Australia that enables every student to develop, among other things, competence in and appreciation of the creative arts.

- b) to e) The Government's *New Directions for the Arts* policy states that it will work with state and territory education authorities, teacher employers and universities to review the provision of music education.

It does not specify a formal review.

The Government is considering the provision of music education on an ongoing basis, for example through consultation with the Music Education Advisory Group and through the development of an arts education workplan for the Cultural Ministers Council.

In consideration of priorities in supporting music education in schools and possible future policy directions, the Government receives advice from the Music Education Advisory Group, which includes state and territory government representatives, as well as key music stakeholders.

The Communiqué from the Cultural Ministers Council meeting on 29 February 2008 noted the Government's commitment to working collaboratively with the states and territories to achieve enhanced delivery of arts education, with music as an initial focus. The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, is the Australian Government representative on the Cultural Ministers Council.