

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0638\_11**

**Senator Mason asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 33.**

**Question**

**QUADRENNIAL REVIEW - EXTEND EXISTING FUNDING**

*Senator MASON—I understand the Prime Minister during the election campaign gave a commitment to extend the existing funding arrangement to 2013 and the capital funding to 2014. Is that correct? Dr Bruniges—That is correct. Senator MASON—Was the inquiry informed by the Prime Minister of that before she made that announcement? Ms Paul—Wasn't that during the campaign? Senator MASON—Yes, it was. Ms Paul—Then we would not know—it was during caretaker. Senator MASON—The inquiry was not told in advance of the Prime Minister's commitment? Ms Paul—No, I am saying I cannot answer that because it was during caretaker, so I would not know if there had been any contact. Senator MASON—Can you find out, Ms Paul? Ms Paul—Sure; happy to do that. Senator MASON—All right, take it on notice. Do we know what process was undertaken before it was decided to extend the funding agreement to schools, or was simply an announcement made during— Ms Paul—It was an announcement made the election campaign. Senator MASON—Is the government intending releasing new terms of reference to the review that reflect the Prime Minister's election commitment? Ms Paul—I am not sure whether it needs to be reflected in the terms of reference, but we do need to have a look at that and see if we need to. I do not know if Dr Bruniges wants to comment. Dr Bruniges—We will look at the terms of reference, but there is no definite on whether the terms of reference will change or not. Senator MASON—And you will let me know if the Prime Minister informed them before announcements were made? Dr Bruniges—Yes*

**Answer**

Yes. The Chair of the Review of Funding for Schooling panel, Mr David Gonski AM, was advised by the Prime Minister's Office of the commitment before its announcement.