

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0473_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Commissioned reports - financial year to date

How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

There has been one report commissioned by the Government for the financial year to date. Details of this report are attached.

Name of Report	Details of report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.	Cost/estimate cost of the Report	How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?	What is the current status of the Report?	Did the Government report within the required timeframe?	If not, when is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
2012 Trial for the Collection of Nationally Consistent Data on Students with Disability	<p>The 2012 Trial and subsequent report was commissioned by DEEWR on behalf of the ministerial established Joint Working Group (JWG) to Progress the Collection of Nationally Consistent Data on Students with Disability at Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) on 20 April 2012.</p> <p>Education Ministers will decide if the final report will be publicly released early in 2013.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the JWG to Progress the Collection of Nationally Consistent Data on Students with Disability are at Attachment A.</p> <p>The Joint Working Group Members are at Attachment B.</p>	\$1.67 million for the 2012 Trial and subsequent report.	<p>Up to nine Departmental staff were involved at various times in the 2012 Trial as part of their overall duties.</p> <p>These staff included: 1 x Deputy Secretary 1 x Group Manager 1 x Branch Manager 1 x EL2 3 x EL1 2 x APS 6</p>	<p>Confidential</p> <p>2012 Interim Report is being provided to Education Ministers for their consideration at the 7 December 2012 SCSEEC meeting, noting that they will receive the Final Report in early 2013.</p>	N/A	No Response Required

JOINT WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Joint Working Group to Progress the Collection of Nationally Consistent Data on Students with Disability

The joint working group will be chaired by DEEWR and comprise education authorities, including the Catholic and independent sectors and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

The working group will be tasked to:

1. Examine issues arising from the PricewaterhouseCoopers report, *Trial of a Model for Collecting Nationally Consistent Data on School Students with Disability*, specifically:
 - identified refinements to the model to include:
 - further relevant examples into the descriptors of each level of adjustment in the model; and
 - a 'multiple disabilities' category;
 - guidance for schools regarding criteria for the inclusion of students with disability in the model that have been 'validated' by an Education Authority;
 - consultation processes between students, parents/carers and schools about adjustment;
 - whether the four adjustment categories capture enough of the diversity of effort by schools in meeting the needs of students with disability; and
 - whether the collection methodology is appropriate for special schools.
2. Propose an implementation strategy to commence the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability. This includes preparing a business case for AEEYSOC in April 2012 which details processes for commencing the collection of the national data set. Business case should include advice on :
 - appropriate collection methodology;
 - the timeframe for national data collection and reporting;
 - options for the presentation and reporting of nationally consistent data on students with disability on the school profile pages on My School; and
 - workforce issues associated with implementation and potential impacts on schools and school authorities.]

Students with Disability JWG Membership – as at 16 October 2012

State/Independent	Membership as at October 2012
Australian Government (JWG Chair)	Mr Martin Hehir, Deputy Secretary, Schools and Youth, DEEWR Mr Matt Davies, Group Manager, Youth and Inclusive Education, DEEWR (Alternate for Martin Hehir)
ACT	Ms Kerrie Heath, Manager, Disability Education
NSW	Dr Andrew Dowling, Chief Policy Officer, External Relations Policy Mr Brian Smyth King, Director, Disability Programs
NT	Ms Vicky Baylis, General Manager, Teaching, Learning and Inclusion; and Independent Community School Support Unit
QLD	Mr Boyd Paties, Executive Director, Performance Monitoring and Reporting Ms Marg Pethiyagoda, Assistant Director-General, Education Queensland
SA	Ms Julie Aschberger, Director, Special Education Dr Mark Witham, Director, Strategic Projects Ms Lynley Page, Disability Support Program
TAS	Ms Lynne James, Manager State Support Service
VIC	Mr Mark Tainsh, Director, Disabilities and Additional Needs, Ms Susan Dennett, Group Manager, Data Outcomes and Evaluation
WA	Mr Peter Titmanis, Executive Director, Innovation, Performance and Research
ACARA	Mr Nathaniel Lewis, Senior Manager Reporting, Data
ISCA	Ms Colette Colman, Policy Analysis & Research Manager Ms Robyn Yates, Director, Government Education Policy AIS NSW
NCEC	Mr Tim Smith, Executive Officer