

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0228_14
Senator McKenzie asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 103

Question Evaluation of National Youth Week

CHAIR: What sort of criteria did you used to evaluate National Youth Week? Mr Fernando: I do not recall the full range of criteria that we used at the time; it was two years ago. However, there would have been a range of criteria. CHAIR: Senator O'Neill is making a statement about the great value of the work of the Office for Youth and the great outcomes for young people in Australia that have been achieved by the office. I would be very happy if you want to take on notice my question about the criteria you used to come up with these successful evaluations, given the other evidence we have heard today about evaluations seeming positive but not focused on student outcomes, for instance, in the education area. Mr Hehir: We can certainly take that on notice.

Answer

In March 2011, the Allen Consulting Group was engaged by the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to undertake an evaluation of National Youth Week (NYW).

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the overall impact and value of NYW and to provide recommendations on the future direction of NYW.

The evaluation criteria included the following:

- involvement of young people in guiding the high level administration of NYW
- involvement of young people in leading and organising NYW events and activities
- levels of awareness and participation by young people in NYW events
- reach and breadth of NYW events and activities, including in relation to geographic location and priority youth populations
- nature and value of social engagement opportunities for young people through NYW, particularly for priority youth populations
- opportunities, through NYW, for young people to raise and discuss issues of importance to them
- opportunities, through NYW, for government and youth sector stakeholders to promote positive social, community and health messages to young people or to connect young people with services
- promotion of positive community perceptions of young people or 'good news' stories about young people;
- promotion of positive interactions between young people and the wider community.

The final report was received by the former department in November 2011 and key findings were:

- NYW has been widely adopted as a forum for celebration of youth regardless of geographical location
- Australian Government funding is best spent through maximising youth participation in local events
- The national launch event be reconsidered due to the limited impact of the event outside the host jurisdiction.