

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 2: Indigenous  
**Topic:** School Enrolment Attendance Measure (SEAM)

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 313

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Has a review of the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) program been conducted within the last 12 months?

- a. Is a review of SEAM currently underway or scheduled in the future?
- b. How many communities does SEAM currently operate in?
- c. Has the new model of SEAM been rolled out in the Tiwi Islands and Maningrida? If not, why?
- d. Can you provide the latest data on SEAM?
- e. Does the cessation of the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory affect the operation of SEAM in Northern Territory communities?

**Answer:**

a. An evaluation of the SEAM programme was conducted by the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and was completed in 2014. The final report was agreed in early 2015 by the Steering Committee responsible for its oversight.

The Minister of Indigenous Affairs has now agreed to release the report. The report is currently being prepared for publication and is expected to be made publicly available in July 2015.

b. SEAM currently operates in 52 schools in 23 communities across the Northern Territory.

c. Yes. From Term 1 2015, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been trialling a reformed SEAM model in six schools in Maningrida and Tiwi Islands.

- d. The following data represents operations across all SEAM sites from Term 1, 2013 to 12 June 2015:
  - 2,132 conferences conducted, with social workers attending 82 per cent of the time;
  - 313 income support suspensions as part of the attendance component of SEAM;
    - Of these 313 income support suspensions, less than 20 cases have resulted in a cancellation of Income Support payments. This demonstrates that once suspended, parents generally complied with their attendance plans or complied via other means.
  
- e. No.