

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0824\_10**

**Senator Cash provided in writing.**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW569\_10 (f)*

**Question**

**AUDITS OF THE PRODUCTIVITY PLACES PROGRAM**

Evidence was given at the October 2009 Estimates hearing that 'The auditing of RTOs contracted under PPP is still ongoing, they are not listed in order to avoid jeopardising any formal investigation or cause unwarranted business damage to RTOs. Please advise if this is completed? If not why not? Why is it taking so long?

**Answer**

DEEWR's compliance monitoring activity will continue during the lifetime of the program.

The timeframe for completion of a desktop monitoring exercise is dependent on the level of compliance found and the cooperation of the provider being monitored.

If the provider is considered compliant based on an initial desktop monitoring sample, subject to caseload, it is reasonable to expect that a monitoring exercise would be completed well within a month.

Monitoring exercises that reveal apparent non-compliance will vary in the length of time to resolve. Relevant factors can include the degree of non-compliance detected, whether there is a need for onsite monitoring and whether there is a need for the provider to repay program funding. In some cases, exercises have taken several months to complete as a result of respective training providers contesting the results of the monitoring exercise, which may include engaging in legal representation to resolve matters.