

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

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

Outcome: Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW0848_10

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Question

ELECTION COMMITMENTS

What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio? Which election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?

Answer

Election Commitments

Attachment A provides the election commitments for which the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is responsible and those that have been transferred to other agencies.

All remaining election commitments are to schedule with the exception of those outlined in Attachment B.

DEEWR Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Status
CROSS OUTCOME	
Indigenous Economic Development Strategy	In Progress
Labor's plan for high quality child care.	In Progress
Early Childhood Workforce - \$126.6 million over four years was provided in the 2008-09 Budget for three initiatives	In Progress
OUTCOME 1	
Office of Early Childhood Education	Implemented
Changed rate and frequency of payment of the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR)	Implemented
Extension of Jobs, Education and Training Child Care fee assistance (JETCCFA) to two years for study activity	Implemented
Education Revolution – Early Childhood Strong Quality Standards for Child Care	In Progress
Universal access to early learning for children, in the year before formal schooling	In Progress
National Roll-out of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)	In Progress
Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters	In Progress
Plan for More Child Care Centres	In Progress
National Early Years Learning Framework	In Progress
OUTCOME 2	
Increased funding for primary schools.	Implemented
Funding for Mentors for our Students	Implemented
\$16 million over four years for additional recurrent funding for orthodox Jewish day schools	Implemented
Job Ready Certificate	In Progress
Digital Education Revolution, \$1 billion over four years	In Progress
Trade Training Centres in Schools Program	In Progress
Secondary school funding to broker on-the-job training	In Progress
The development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum.	In Progress
Commitment to LiftSchool Standards	In Progress
National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)	In Progress
200 teachers for the prescribed communities in the Northern Territory	In Progress
The Local Schools Working Together Pilot Program will provide capital funding for government and non-government schools across Australia	In Progress
National action plan on literacy and numeracy	In Progress

Election Commitment	Status
Expanding Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Programs for underachieving Indigenous Students and introducing Personalised Learning Plans	In Progress
Three new boarding colleges in the Northern Territory	In Progress
The Funding announced in the ECEF was appropriated to the Careers, Transitions and Partnerships Programme.	In Progress
Security Needs of At Risk Schools Transferred to AGs	Transferred
New Directions for the Arts – Arts Education for All Australian Students (Part 5) Transferred to DEWHA	Transferred
Education Tax Refund Transferred to ATO	Transferred
OUTCOME 3	
9,250 Extra Nurses To Take Pressure Off Australia’s Hospitals.	Implemented
Phasing out of undergraduate fee paying places for domestic students at public universities	Implemented
Commitment to reduce student contributions for new students studying maths and science from band 2 to band 1	Implemented
Support for JamesCookUniversity to establish dental school in Cairns.	Implemented
Scholarships for a competitive future, part of the “Education Revolution”	Implemented
Additional places and capital funding for the University of Notre Dame Australia	Implemented
<i>Skilling Australia for the Future</i> – Partial funding of 711,000 additional training places	Implemented
Skills Australia	Implemented
Skilling Australia for the Future– Strengthened Industry Skills Councils	Implemented
<i>Skilling Australia for the Future</i> – Skills and Training Information Centres	Implemented
<i>Skilling Australia for the Future</i> – Additional Australian Apprenticeship Places	Implemented
Establishment of mission based compacts with public universities	In Progress
Reintroduction of Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) Overtaken by the Bradley review of Australian Higher Education	In Progress
Reduce funding to the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education	No longer being implemented*
Scholarships for a Competitive Future – postgraduate scholarships. Transferred to DIISR	Transferred
OUTCOME 4	
Review Employment Services	Implemented

Election Commitment	Status
Increase Utilities Allowance	Implemented

* This measure is no longer being implemented. The Carrick Institute, now called the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, has continued to be fully funded.

Election Commitment	Status
Increased Telephone Allowance	Implemented
Review Job Capacity Assessments	Implemented
School Enrolment and Attendance	In Progress
Creation of real jobs for CDEP participants in government service delivery	In Progress
CommonwealthStateTerritory Disability Agreement	Transferred
FaHCSIA Responsibility	
OUTCOME 5	
Prevent the making of new AWAs	Implemented
Create Individual Transitional Employment Agreements (ITEAs) for certain employers during the 2 year period of award simplification	Implemented
Ensure that existing agreements are honoured and can operate for their full term	Implemented
Create a universal safety net of 10 National Employment Standards to underpin collective bargaining and common law contracts.	Implemented
AIRC to modernise the award system based on the NES and a further 10 basic award conditions. All awards will contain an award flexibility clause.	Implemented
Create new agency called Fair Work Australia	Implemented
New collective bargaining model	Implemented
Create a uniform national workplace relations system	Implemented
Create a Business Advisory Group	Implemented
Establish new independent body to replace Australian Safety and Compensation Council	Implemented
Review the future of migration by companies into the Comcare scheme	Implemented
Fair dismissal rules that also consider needs of small business	Implemented
Homeworkers Code of Practice and development of No Sweat Shop Label	Implemented
Small Business Work and Family Program	Implemented
Assistance to employer organisations to help their members negotiate collective agreements	Implemented
Assistance to small business organisations to implement education and advice campaigns on the WR system and unfair dismissal laws	Implemented

Harmonisation of OHS laws within 5 years	In Progress
Work and Family Awards	In Progress
Young Workers Toolkit	In Progress
Code of Practice for young workers	In Progress
Abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission and transfer its responsibilities to a specialist Fair Work inspectorate from 1 February 2010	In Progress

Election commitments with revised implementation dates

Commitment	Rationale	Revised date	Implications
<p>Indigenous Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>Whole of Government Strategy, specific initiatives will be progressed by responsible agencies. Employment portfolio has lead coordination role for Indigenous economic development</p>	<p>Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and DEEWR are currently working towards submitting a draft IEDS to their respective Ministers' Offices and officers at PM&C. An outline has been agreed between the three departments. The drafting will reflect feedback from the Ministers' Offices to date.</p>	<p>1/06/2010, noting some related policies such as reforms to CDEP and the Indigenous Employment Program have already been implemented.</p>	
<p>The Government originally planned to build 260 Early Learning and Care Centres with 38 of these in identified areas.</p>	<p>The Government is proceeding with the first 38 centres. The Government's consideration of the remaining 222 centres has been impacted by the ABC insolvency.</p>	<p>The Government continues to monitor the operation of the child care market.</p>	<p>Processes for establishing the first 38 centres are in hand.</p>
<p>Digital Education Revolution (DER), \$1 billion over four years.</p>	<p>The implementation of the high-speed broadband to schools component of the DER has been deferred pending the outcome of the review of regulatory arrangements and the National Broadband Network (NBN) implementation study. Following the NBN implementation study, the intention is to proceed with the implementation of this initiative in coordination with other government broadband initiatives including the NBN.</p>	<p>The finalisation date for the high speed broadband to schools component of the DER has been revised to allow the initiative to be implemented in coordination with the NBN and other government broadband initiatives.</p>	<p>The deferment of the high speed broadband to schools component of the DER will enable the initiative to be implemented in coordination with the NBN and other government broadband initiatives.</p>

Commitment	Rationale	Revised date	Implications
Three new boarding colleges in the Northern Territory	<i>For the Wadeye facility</i> - the original site identified for the boarding facility was agreed by traditional owners for another purpose. Consultations and negotiations were undertaken to identify and agree a new site for the facility. A site has been identified and the lease process is in train with traditional owners agreeing to a 20 year plus 20 year lease for the site.	Based on current reports, all three facilities are expected to be completed in 2010.	N/A
Secondary school funding to broker on-the-job training	Final reports and audited financial statements from state governments have been extended to 1 March 2010. The reason for the extension is time required to get data from the schools.	Revised finalisation date dependent on receipt of audited financial statements.	Nil. Does not impact on the National Partnership which has replaced this election commitment.
Reintroduction of Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) Overtaken by the Bradley review of Australian Higher Education	Financial assistance for students, including income contingent loans, was considered in the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education, commissioned in March 2008, with terms of reference including "supporting and widening access to higher education, including participation by students from a wide range of backgrounds".	N/A	N/A

Commitment	Rationale	Revised date	Implications
<p>School Enrolment and Attendance (NOTE: cross agency measure. Employment portfolio working directly to Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)</p>	<p>SEAM has been available in the Northern Territory in six trial locations since the commencement of Term 1, 2009 and in Queensland in seven trial locations since the commencement of Term 4, 2009. In the NT the enrolment component was first completed in Term 1 2009. The enrolment component was not implemented in Queensland in 2009, as SEAM did not start in that state until Term 4 2009.</p> <p>The enrolment component is currently being conducted for 2010 enrolments in both QLD and the NT via a data exchange between education authorities and Centrelink.</p> <p>NT Government schools had the attendance component of SEAM available to them from Term 1 2009.</p>	<p>SEAM is now funded until 30 June 2010.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission and transfer its responsibilities to a specialist Fair Work inspectorate from 1 February 2010</p>	<p>Legislation not yet passed by the Senate.</p>	<p>As soon as possible following passage of the requisite legislation</p>	<p>Election commitment commencement date not achieved.</p>