

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0902_10

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

COAG's NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MENTAL HEALTH 2006-2011

1. Please provide the amount of funding provided for the Helping Young People stay in Education program
2. How does this compare to the amount originally allocated?
3. If less, why has it been reduced?

Answer

In 2006 \$59.5million over five years was allocated towards the *Helping Young People Stay in Education* initiative. This funding was focused on enhancing Youth Pathways, a program for young people experiencing mental health problems as a barrier to remaining engaged with education.

There has been no change in the funding amount allocated. The Youth Pathways program ceased on 31 December 2009 and the allocated funding has been rolled into the replacement program, Youth Connections.

Youth Connections is being delivered under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transition. The Australian Government has committed \$286.8 million over four years for this program as part of its contribution to the National Partnership. Funding for this program will be progressively transferred to state and territory governments under the National Partnership as they meet agreed outcomes.

Youth Connections commenced on 1 January 2010 and provides a safety net for young people who have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education. Youth Connections providers offer flexible case managed services to support young people to overcome their barriers, including those faced by young people with mental health issues. Youth Connections also delivers youth focused activities to engage severely disengaged youth and works to strengthen services in each region and help other organisations to build their capacity to work with at risk youth.