

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0843\_11**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON YOUTH AND TRANSITIONS PROGRAM**

1. Can the Department detail the amount of funding that has been spent under the National Partnership on Youth and Transitions program to date, and break down this spending giving regards to each particular area within the Partnership? 2. How is the Commonwealth overseeing the money being provided under the Partnership? Given that many of the programs funded do not have an objective market value, how is the Department ensuring that money is not wasted? 3. The Partnership states that its objective is to increase the number of young Australians achieving year 12 or equivalent by 2015. Firstly, what qualifications are included as being equivalent to year 12?

**Answer**

Under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, the Commonwealth is providing funding of \$623 million over four years for improved youth engagement, attainment and transition arrangements. Details of the funding spent to date (1 January 2010 – 10 March 2011) broken down by each particular element of the National Partnership is outlined in the table below.

<b>Element</b>	<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>Spent to Date</b>
Maximising Engagement Attainment and Successful Transitions	\$150,000,000	\$56,254,000
Youth Connections	\$287,000,000	\$83,495,932
School Business Community Partnership Brokers	\$139,000,000*	\$50,642,897
National Career Development	\$47,000,000	\$1,940,856
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$623,000,000</b>	<b>\$192,333,685</b>

\* This figure is commonly reported as \$183.3 million, the original allocation for School Business Community Partnership Brokers under the NP on Youth Attainment and Transitions. However, in order to reduce duplication and overlap with the existing Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) in Victoria it was agreed under the Implementation Plan that the \$44 million in Partnership Broker funds for Victoria would be provided directly to Victoria through the Maximising Engagement, Attainment and Successful Transitions (MEAST) project payment, to support the LLENs to deliver the Partnership Broker program in Victoria. The MEAST funds are commonly reported as \$106 million which reflects the amount of funding allocated under the NP to states and territories for reform.

Reward funding of up to \$100 million is also available to states and territories based on achievement of 2010 participation and 2012 attainment targets set out in the National Partnership. To date, none of this funding has been spent.

The Commonwealth is overseeing the money being provided under the National Partnership in the following ways:

**Maximising Engagement Attainment and Successful Transitions** – This is an annual project payment to state and territory treasuries from the Commonwealth Treasury based on agreed actions outlined in state and territory Implementation Plans. States and territories are required to report annually on progress.

**Youth Connections-** This funding is dispersed to contracted program providers that were selected via an open tender process. Payments are made according to the achievement of agreed contract milestones and performance is monitored quarterly in accordance with standard contract management practices.

**School Business Community Partnership Brokers-** This funding is dispersed to contracted program providers that were selected via an open tender process. Payments are made according to the achievement of agreed contract milestones and performance is monitored quarterly in accordance with standard contract management practices.

**National Career Development**–This funding is a Commonwealth Own Purpose Expense under the National Partnership and is used to support a range of national projects and resources for the benefit of all states and territories, such as the Job Guide. Funding of projects is determined in consultation with a Multilateral State and Territory Career Development Working Group.

Under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions Year 12 or its equivalent is defined as meeting the requirements for being awarded:

- a Year 12 Certificate (Senior Secondary Certificate) by a Board of Studies; or
- an equivalent qualification such as the Certificate of General Education for Adults (at Certificate II level or above), the International Baccalaureate or other higher education pre entry course; or
- an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate II or higher qualification issued by a Registered Training Organisation or by a higher education institution.

**Reward Funding**– The reward funding will be made available to states and territories based on the achievement of 2010 participation and 2012 attainment targets set out in the National Partnership. Achievement of the targets will be assessed by the Council of Australian Governments Reform Council.