

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0862_11

Senator Mason asked on 24/02/2011, Hansard page 66.

Question

NBN ROLLOUT AT CIRCULAR HEAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Ms Paul—Okay. We will take it on notice. Senator MASON—at 4.38 pm, Ms Paul. Ms Paul—Okay. That is very precise; much appreciated. We will have to take it on notice. Senator MASON—Yes. What I want you to take on notice are these questions. He was a fairly severe critic of the operation and then four days later he was a great advocate, and it struck me as sort of rapid Maoist selfcorrection, Ms Paul. I thought, 'This is interesting.' So could you find out if the department—Commonwealth; perhaps you cannot find out with the state department—contacted the principal, Mr Bakes, and informed him; whether he was contacted by the Commonwealth department or the state department. Ms Paul—We will take it on notice. CHAIR—Just so that I am clear: is this an allegation that is being made or is simply an assumption you want to be explored? Senator MASON—One to be explored, to find out if the principal was contacted by any state of federal departments. Ms Paul—None of us is familiar with that as far as we can tell. Senator MASON—You are not aware of it? Ms Paul—We will take it on notice. We certainly will try our best on behalf of any contacts from our own department, although it does not look likely, does it, on the face of it. I do not know that we can do it for other Commonwealth departments, and it might be a bit hard to do it from the state one, but we will see how far we can go with it. Senator MASON—So you were not aware of this problem that persisted for over four months? You have no idea? Ms Paul—No, I have not heard this and I have not seen that media report either. Dr Arthur—Senator, we have no role in that question. Senator MASON—No, but you would be interested, wouldn't you, Dr Arthur, that things were not working too well? I would pass a cursory glance myself. Dr Arthur—We will take it on notice.

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has contacted representatives from the Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy and Tasmanian Department of Education and Training to provide an answer to this query.

DEEWR can confirm that no officer with responsibilities for broadband and digital education has had any contact with Mr Patrick Bakes, Principal of Circular Head Christian School, regarding the performance of the school's broadband connection since connection to the NBN.

The Tasmanian Department of Education and Training, the Tasmanian Whole of Government Communications Group in the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Principal of the nearby school, Smithton High School have all confirmed that they have not had any contact with the Circular Head Christian School regarding the performance of the school's broadband connection since connection to the NBN.

The Department of Broadband Communication and the Digital Economy confirmed that their department's officers have not had any contact with the Circular Head Christian School regarding the issue.