

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0877_11

Senator Mason asked on 24/02/2011, Hansard page 62.

Question

SCHOOLS CONNECTED TO THE NBN

Ms Bloor—There are five early release sites of the NBN and they certainly have schools in those sites. I am not aware of which ones have years 9 to 12. There are then 17 additional secondary sites for the NBN, and we estimate that there are about 120 schools in those sites. Again, I would have to take on notice which ones of those are senior secondary school. Dr Arthur—And I might add that a complicating factor, for example, in New South Wales, is that if it is a New South Wales government secondary school it may well have an existing fibre connection provided by the New South Wales government, and there will be benefits for those schools from the competition effects of the overall NBN exercise, but we will need to take on notice to get a breakdown which eliminates those kinds of issues. Senator MASON—I understand that, but I am not concerned—even the schools who have connections because of, you know, state governments or indeed Catholic or independent schools, most of them, Dr Arthur, as we have discussed ad nauseam, do not have up to 100 megabytes. They have about 10 megabytes a second. Dr Arthur—Over 60 per cent of Australian schools are currently connected to optical fibre, Senator. Senator MASON—That is right. Ms Paul—We have taken on notice the NBN sites. Senator MASON—So I just want to find out how far the NBN has come. Ms Paul—Yes. Senator MASON—I know that some have been connected, I acknowledge that, but I want to know how far. Ms Paul—Yes and we can do that. We do not know here which ones are secondary and which ones are not. That is what we will have to go away and work out.

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has consulted with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) in providing the following response.

According to data provided to DBCDE by NBN Co Limited there are seven schools within the five first release sites that will be connected to the NBN. Four of these schools are secondary schools which include Years 9 to 12.

These schools are:

- Cathedral School Townsville
- Presbyterian Ladies College Armidale
- Willunga High School
- Willunga Waldorf School.

The five NBN first release sites are located in Townsville (Qld), Armidale (NSW), Minnamurra & Kiama Downs (NSW), Willunga (SA) and in one capital city location of Brunswick (Melbourne).