

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0936_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

THE SCHOOL ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE MEASURE (SEAM)

Can you provide an update on the Evaluation of the SEAM trial? Specifically: a. Who is undertaking the evaluation? b. What are its terms of reference? c. When will the evaluation be completed? d. Will it be released publicly?

Answer

(a) & (b) A comprehensive evaluation of the SEAM trial will be undertaken by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations at the completion of the trial. The evaluation will examine all aspects of the trial and its operation in both Queensland and the Northern Territory. The terms of reference encompass the evaluation of SEAM processes, implementation, effectiveness and efficiency.

The evaluation will use a mixed methodology approach including analysis of qualitative, quantitative and administrative data. As part of the data collection process, surveys, interviews and focus groups with stakeholders have been undertaken by URBIS (a consultancy firm) and the Social Research Centre on the department's behalf. The department will analyse all the available data and develop the final evaluation report.

(c) The evaluation is expected to be completed approximately six months after the trial concludes.

(d) It will be a decision for government as to whether or not the final evaluation of SEAM will be publicly released.