

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0915_12

Senator Back provided in writing.

"Refers to previous DEEWR Question No's EW0531_12, EW0010_12, EW0056_11, EW0241_11, EW0798_10, EW0807_10, EW0851_10 and EW0846_10.

Question

Reviews

"For the year 2010-11: • When will each of these reviews be concluded? • What reviews have been concluded? • Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? • When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? • What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? For this financial year to date: • How many Reviews are being undertaken? • What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded • Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? • When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? • What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? • What reviews are planned? • When will each of these reviews be concluded?"

Answer

Twenty-four reviews were undertaken by the department for the year 2010-11. For this financial year to date, 9 reviews have been conducted, are underway or are planned. See [Attachment A](#) for details.

The 2011-12 list excludes any reviews pertaining to International, Higher Education or Vocational Education and Training functions which have been moved to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education under the recent Machinery of Government change.

ATTACHMENT A

Reviews conducted, undertaken or planned for 2010-11:	When will the Review be concluded?	Has the review been concluded?	Has the review been provided to Government?	When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?	Estimated cost of the Review?
1. National Safe Schools Framework Review	July 2010	Concluded	Yes	MCEECDYA endorsed the revised National Safe Schools Framework in December 2010. The Framework was published in March 2011.	\$127,000
2. Independent review of the impact of the job seeker compliance framework (Disney Review)	September 2010	Concluded	Yes	Measures were announced as part of <i>Building Australia's Future Workforce</i> in the 2011-12 Budget.	\$115,000
3. Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Council: Strengthening the AQF: An Architecture for Australia's Qualifications (3 Phases)	November 2010	Concluded	Yes	Public launch 23 June 2011.	\$1,250,000
4. Review of Regional Loading	December 2010	Concluded	Yes	Government responded to the review on 10 May 2011, with announcements in the 2011-12 Budget.	\$342,688.67
5. Apprenticeships for the 21st Century Expert Panel	January 2011	Concluded	Yes	Public Release December 2011. http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/Reform/Australian_Apprenticeships_Reform.asp	The cost of supporting the Expert Panel, including the development of its report was \$351,170.
6. National School Chaplaincy Program	April 2011	Concluded	Yes	Public Release September 2011. http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NSCSWP/Pages/ConsultationProcess.aspx	\$355,000
7. OECD Review on Evaluation and Assessment in Education: Australia report	May 2011	Concluded	Yes	Public release 18 August 2011.	OECD Review on Evaluation and Assessment in Education: Australia report \$160,000
8. Phase One Review of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program.	May 2011	Concluded	Yes	To be determined by Government.	\$50,000
9. Consultation on future employment services – the Government sought feedback on the operation of Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services.	May 2011	Concluded	Yes	The Government responded to the feedback it received in the 2011-12 Budget.	Cost met within Departmental resources
10. Taskforce on Strengthening Government Service Delivery for Job seekers	June 2011	Concluded	Yes	Government introduced a range of measures based on the taskforce recommendations, which were announced as part of the 2011-12 Budget.	Cost met within Departmental resources (DEEWR and the now DHS)
11. The Strategic Review of the	30 June 2011	Concluded	Yes	The Government responded on 22 September 2011.	DEEWR seconded 1 ASL to

Student Visa Program 2011					the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for six months and undertook research at a cost of \$51,000.
12. The Review of Student Income Support Reforms (Lee Dow Review)	July 2011	Concluded	Yes	The Government responded to the Review on 14 September 2011	Approximately \$442 000 (GST inclusive) for 2010-11 and 2011-12
13. Review of the Transition to Independent Living Allowance	September 2011	Concluded	Yes	To be determined by Government	\$105,548.00
14. Post Implementation Review of the VET FEE-HELP Assistance Scheme	September 2011	Concluded	Yes	The review does not require a formal separate response from Government, but will be used during 2012 as part of the broader VET reforms.	\$144,989
15. Literacy and Numeracy Pilots in Low Socio-economic Status (SES) Schools Evaluation (Pilots Evaluation)	October 2011	Concluded	Yes	To be determined by Government	\$363,660
16. Higher Education Base Funding Review	October 2011	Concluded	Yes	The Government released the report on 8 December 2011.	\$870,900 (1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011). Some expenditure still to be finalised.
17. 18 month review of the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education	October 2011	Concluded	Yes	October 2011 http://www.mceetya.edu.au/verve/_resources/Early_Childhood_Partnership_Review.pdf	\$240,000
18. Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005	Early 2012	Concluded	Yes	Report currently under consideration. Government response being prepared across 3 agencies. Expecting review report to be released shortly.	\$33,000
19. Review of Funding for Schooling	December 2011	Concluded	Yes	The Review of Funding for Schooling Report was released on 20 February 2012, together with an initial high-level Government response	The approximate cost of the review (excl GST) is \$2.65m. This includes Secretariat Expenses, Panel Expenses and Research Consultancy Expenses
20. Phase One: Smarter Schools National Partnership Evaluation	March 2012	Ongoing	Yes	To be determined by Government	\$1,214,090
21. OECD Review of Australia's Activation Policies	2012 - exact publication date of report TBC by OECD	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$134,000
22. Review of Remote Participation and Employment Services	May 2012	Ongoing	Yes	To be determined by Government	Cost to be met within Departmental resources (DEEWR and FAHCSIA)

23. Asbestos Management Review	June 2012	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$1.5 million
24. Evaluation of the Closing the Gap: <i>Expansion of Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Programs for Underachieving Indigenous Students initiative</i>	30 June 2013	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$440,426

Reviews conducted, undertaken or planned for 2011-12:	When will the review be concluded?	Has the review been concluded?	Has the review been provided to Government?	When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?	Estimated cost of each of the Reviews?
1. Review of Employer Sanctions Legislation - Combating Illegal Work in Australia*	July 2011	Concluded	Yes	Public Release 12 December www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2011/cb181163.htm	Cost met from Departmental resources
2. Review of Business Skills Program*	Final quarter 2011	Concluded	Yes	To be determined by Government, noting interim measures include introduction of Fraud Public Interest Criterion (see www.immi.gov.au/skilled/_pdf/fraud-pic.pdf)	Cost met from Departmental resources
3. 2011 Sporting Chance Program Evaluation	January 2012	Concluded	Yes	Evaluation Report and Government Response published in early February 2012.	\$220,000
4. Review of Employer Sponsored Permanent Migration*	February 2012	Concluded	Yes	To be determined by Government	Cost met from Departmental resources
5. Review of the Supported Wage System – Consultancy A component of the 2011-12 Budget Measure – <i>Increased employment participation for people with mental illness</i>	May 2012	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$261,000 in 2011-12
6. Post Implementation Review of the Fair Work Act	May 2012	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$750,000

7. Review of Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme (AICS)	In progress (Possibly May 2012)	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$39,200
8. Evaluation of the Youth Connections Reducing Substance Abuse Pilot Project 2011 and 2012	July 2012	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	\$152,000
9. Better Regulation Ministerial Partnership - Visa Simplification and Deregulation Project *	July 2015	Ongoing	No	To be determined by Government	Cost met from Departmental resources

* Joint review where DEEW R had a notable contribution.