

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No.EW1000_12

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Cyber-Safety and the Young

The following questions relate to the Government Statement of Response – Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety Interim Report *High Wire Act: Cyber-Safety and the Young* • When did the Safe and Supportive School Communities (SSSC) working group first meet and agree to the definition of bullying outlined in the report? • Has this definition been communicated to the Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy? • When will AEEYSOC meet to discuss and agree to the definition? • How long does the Department believe the process of getting agreement to the definition as proposed above will take? • What progress has been made toward investigating the feasibility of recommendation 13? • Has a timeline been set for implementing this recommendation? • When is the first opportunity for this being discussed with state and territory Governments? • Has the Department met with AEEYSOC to address the issues identified in recommendation 14 and its Government response? • Has the Department undertaken any work to progress recommendations 19, 20 and 28?

Answer

The Safe and Supportive School Communities (SSSC) working groups' bullying definition was researched, discussed and agreed by the working group in December 2010. All jurisdictions have agreed in principle to the definition of bullying and this was reflected in the common terms and definitions section of the revised National Safe Schools Framework supporting resource manual and on the Bullying.No Way! website.

A cyberbullying definition was included as part of the agreed SSSC definition of bullying. This definition was submitted to the Consultative Working Group on Cybersafety (CWG) as outlined in the Australian Government response to the Joint Select Committee on Cybersafety's interim report *High Wire Act: Cybersafety and the Young* recommendation no: 2.

The CWG has approved the definition. The department is currently drafting a cybersafety paper in consultation with Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to go to AEEYSOC in May 2012.

This paper will address all the Australian Government responses to the relevant recommendations of the *High Wire Act* report, including those raised in this question.

At this stage it is not possible to gauge either what the outcomes of discussion and decisions by AEEYSOC will be, or resulting implementation timeframes.