

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

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

Outcome 5 – Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW1195_12

Senator Scullion asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 46

Question

SEAM Trial Evaluation Report

Senator SCULLION: You recently released the SEAM trial evaluation report and it provides a number of statistics relating to school enrolment and attendance rate. You might be able to clarify a couple of things for me. The minister's release said that out of 4,688 parents within the scheme only 85 were suspended under the enrolment component of the scheme and seven under the intent of the attendance component. The 85 came from page 56 of the report, from a diagram. But the executive summary says that seven parents in the Northern Territory had payments suspended for enrolment, as were 108 in Queensland. Would you be able to clarify what the actual enrolment and attendance sanction figures were? Mr Matheson: Can you just refer me again to the— Senator SCULLION: I can. Perhaps you can take that on notice. It is obviously an attendance enrolment. I just want to make sure that we are quoting from the same thing. Mr Matheson: There are some instances of multiple incidences where individuals are suspended a couple of times, so we will come back to you. Senator SCULLION: Specifically the 85 that were suspended under the enrolment component came from the minister's release; and seven under the attendance component, which I sort of thought was the case. But the executive summary says that seven parents in the NT were suspended under the enrolment. The inconsistency was that one says 'attendance' and the other said 'enrolment' and it is the same seven. Could you clarify that? I think you should probably take that on notice. Mr Matheson: Yes, we will come back to that. It sounds like an error in the wording there, yes.

Answer

The report incorrectly states on page iii that 7 parents in the Northern Territory and 104 parents in Queensland had their income support payments suspended for failure to comply with enrolment requirements.

The report should state that six parents (involving seven children) in the Northern Territory and 79 parents (involving 104 children) in Queensland had their income support payments suspended for failure to comply with enrolment requirements (as provided on pages 57-58).

In relation to the attendance component, a total of 7 parents were sanctioned during 2010 for failure to comply with attendance requirements (as detailed on pages 52 and 54 of the report).

No parent had their income support cancelled under either the enrolment or attendance components during 2010.