

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1201_12

Senator Scullion asked on 16 February 2012, Hansard page 52

Question

School attendance

Senator SIEWERT: I will try and be quick. In terms of the next lot of evaluation potentially the situation is marginally better than it was in 2009, but my reading of this report is that it still does not demonstrate a clear improvement overall for having the SEAM trial for attendance because of the backwards and forwards. Yes, there are a few more kids going to school or the attendance rate, as we said, improves for a little while and then drops back again. Are the figures that you have been getting since this report was done an improvement over the 2010 figures? So, in other words, is the preliminary data you are getting for 2011, showing improvements over 2010? Mr Cook: I am not sure we would have 2011 data as yet. Ms Hanlon: We actually do have monitoring data, but I am not sure that I could actually tell you now what that improvement—or not—trend actually is, so we might take that on notice and have a look at that compared to what is in the evaluation.

Answer

The Department receives ongoing monitoring data from DHS on indicators such as numbers of children and parents in-scope for SEAM, numbers of notices sent, and numbers of income support suspensions.

While such data has been received for the current SEAM trial for 2011, it has not yet been aggregated and analysed to indicate trends or to allow for a comparison between SEAM in 2011 with SEAM in 2010.