

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1217_12

Senator Williams asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 72

Question

Macintyre High School

Senator WILLIAMS: At the end of 2011 schools were required to reapply for funding to ensure school community support and so on. Macintyre High School—an excellent secondary school in Inverell—experienced difficulties with a computer program and contacted DEEWR who advised them an email would suffice. The email was sent, but difficulties followed and as a result the school will not know whether it has funding until 2 March. This school has had an excellent program, so why should they now face uncertainty and be disadvantaged when they followed DEEWR's directions. Mr Sheedy: I do not know the details of that particular case, however I do know that we had staff available late at night in those close-off periods and we offered a number of work-arounds to enable people to submit their applications by the deadline and, in fact, we extended the deadline to give them plenty of opportunity to get them in. We followed up case by case, so we had an individual working with them. If they were an existing school wanting to continue into this year and they had met all the requirements—and the most significant one is that there is continuing school community support for the program—then I cannot see why they would have to wait until March to find out, but I can offer to follow up the details.

Answer

MacIntyre High School initially attempted to lodge an on-line application for rollover to the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program on 21 November 2011. This attempt was unsuccessful as on-line applications had closed on 20 November. However, the school contacted DEEWR and was advised that they could still submit an application by email and have it considered in the first assessment round.

The school was again contacted by DEEWR on 16 December 2011 as part of a general email to all schools seeking information on why DEEWR had not received an application for the rollover process. A follow up telephone call to the Principal of MacIntyre High School revealed that an email application had been submitted but had not been received by DEEWR as it had been submitted to an incorrect email address.

DEEWR did not receive the application from MacIntyre High School until February 2012. That application has now been assessed, and once all the necessary contract

variations and documentation have been processed, the first payment will be made for the chaplaincy service at MacIntyre High School.