

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. EW0971_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 22

Question

Professional Support Coordinators

If someone could perhaps have a look. In terms of gauging value for money for that, how do you do that?

Mr De Silva: For professional support coordinators?

Senator NASH: Yes.

Mr De Silva: We are actually devising an evaluation. We actually just did a tender for the entire program last year. Some new contracts came into operation on 1 January. We are actually working with all of the contractors, so both the professional support coordinators, IPTUs and inclusion support agencies to do an overall evaluation. They give us data in terms of the number of training events that they do, the number of staff who attend, and what we want to do then is also do a survey of what is the experience of the staff attending. We will be doing that through this evaluation.

Senator NASH: How long do you expect that process to take?

Mr De Silva: We are actually still devising the evaluation, because the contracts only started six weeks ago. We will probably do that evaluation early next year.

Senator NASH: Once you do the evaluation early next year, how long does that then take to conclude that part of the process?

Mr De Silva: I will have to take that on notice. Senator NASH: How long is a piece of string?

If you can take it on notice and come back with a ballpark figure, so we have an idea of roughly how long you think it might take.

Answer

The evaluation is expected to occur in 2014 and take approximately 12 months.