

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0994_13

Senator Mason asked on 14 February 2013 , Hansard page 76

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0518_13.

Question

Quality Outcomes - Schools Support

Senator MASON: I will move on to Quality Outcomes. Quality outcomes has appropriated more than a quarter of all the money provided under program 2.3, Schools Support, in the 2012-13 budget. I think that is right. The PBS state: ... provides funding for strategic projects that support the Government's key objective of improved student learning outcomes in schools and its national leadership role in school education. Again, the department may need to take this on notice—and forgive me—but that is a pretty broad description. Could you please provide a breakdown and description of all money allocated under this program from 2010-11 to the present? Ms Paul: Yes. I think it is probably best to take it on notice. Mr Cook: We will certainly take it on notice. It includes things like the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate, PACER, and as you know, the Australian Government Quality Teacher Program. The funding for AITSL comes under the quality programs as well. Senator MASON: AITSL as well? Ms Paul: Yes. Mr Cook: I have a breakdown, but it might go on for a bit if I read every single program that you wanted me to read out. Senator MASON: I am happy for you to take it on notice. Mr Cook: We will take it on notice.

Answer

The Quality Outcomes Program is provided under Outcome 2, Program 2.3 Schools Support. In 2010–11 and 2011–12 the program comprised 12 components and in 2012-13 the program comprised 11 components. A list of all the components follows:

1. Schools National Projects
2. Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)
3. Online Curriculum Resources and Digital Architecture Initiative (Technical Infrastructure)
4. Australian Government Quality Teacher Program (AGQTP)
5. Community Festivals
6. Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)
7. Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
8. National Broadband Network (NBN) Enabled Education and Skills Services
9. ABC Digital Education
10. Quality Outcomes – Other
11. Civics and Citizenship Education
12. School Drug Education Strategy
13. Boosting Innovation, Science, Technology and Maths Education

14. Australian History Prize

See following detailed description of each component including its years of operation in the DEEWR portfolio.

1. Schools National Projects

Funding is provided for strategic national projects in schooling such as the National Literacy and Numeracy Week and Australia's participation in international education assessments, i.e. the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA); the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS); and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

2. Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)

Provides a rebate to schools in respect of students in Years 4 to 12 travelling more than 150 kilometres to visit the national capital as part of a civics and citizenship education excursion. Schools must visit Parliament House, Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and/or the National Electoral Education Centre) and the Australian War Memorial. Where possible, the students participate in an education program at these institutions.

3. Online Curriculum Resources and Digital Architecture Initiative (Technical Infrastructure)

Provides project funding to link digital resources to the Australian Curriculum and make them easily accessible and to support initiatives such as the National Digital Learning Resources Network and the National Schools Interoperability Program to facilitate interoperability aspects of national e-learning projects, and exchange of information in school sectors across Australia.

4. Australian Government Quality Teacher Program (AGQTP)

Provides funding to Teaching Australia and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership to support teacher professional development in the non-government sector with the objective of equipping teachers with the skills and knowledge needed for teaching in the 21st century, and providing national leadership in high priority areas of teacher professional learning need.

5. Community Festivals

Funding is provided to the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge Foundation to support the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, that plays an important role in helping students from schools around the country to develop a sense of confidence, resilience and team work, as well as allowing young people to participate in their communities and improve their participation in education and employment.

6. Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

Provides the Australian Government's contribution to AITSL's core funding.

7. Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Provides the Australian Government's contribution to ACARA's core funding.

8. National Broadband Network (NBN) - Enabled Education and Skills Services

NBN-Enabled Education and Skills Services Program: supports innovative proposals that encourage the development of education, training and skills which take advantage of the high-speed broadband connectivity available through the NBN. The program will demonstrate how the NBN can increase the education, training, and skills development opportunities for Australians—no matter where they live, work or study.

9. ABC Digital Education

A collaborative project between the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Education Services Australia aimed primarily at students, teachers and parents in the home to deliver a free, public, online education portal offering an extensive library of educational media resources mapped and aligned to the Australian curriculum.

10. Quality Outcomes – Other

Provides funding for strategic projects that support the Australian Government's key objective of improved learning outcomes in school and its national leadership role in school education.

A range of initiatives delivering high-quality arts experiences and education programs are funded through this program. They include support for the work of The Song Room, Musica Viva Australian, Australian Children's Music Foundation, Music Count Us In and Bell Shakespeare Company.

11. Civics and Citizenship

Supports civics and citizenships education in schools to help school students to become active and informed citizens through an understanding and appreciation of Australia's system of government and civic life.

12. School Drug Education Strategy

The National School Drug Education Strategy (NSDES) program fostered capacity in school communities and provided safe and supportive school environments for all Australian school students through the development of an overarching framework which promoted a nationally consistent approach to school drug education. The Strategy was informed by research and evidence-based practice and supported the development of resources and implementation of a range of initiatives to assist schools and the broader school community to deliver effective drug education and to prevent the harm that substance abuse can cause young people.

In the 2012–13 Budget the NSDES and the Values Education and Values Drugs programs were merged into one program to form the Students Resilience and Wellbeing Program.

13. Boosting Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics Teaching

The Boosting Innovation in Technology, Science and Mathematics Teaching (BISTMT) Program was announced in the 2004–05 Budget and terminated on 30 June 2011. The main component of this program was the Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics Project to enhance science, technology and mathematics education and promote innovation in schools.

14. Australian History Prize

The prize was awarded to an individual or a group, for an outstanding publication or body of work that contributes significantly to an understanding of Australian history.

The Australian History Prize became part of the Prime Minister's Literary Awards from 2012. Responsibility for the Prize for Australian History was transferred to the Office for the Arts from 2012.

Actual expenditure for 2010–11 and 2011–12 and estimated funding for 2012–13 as at Additional Estimates for the components of the Quality Outcomes Program is provided in the table below:

Sub-program	2010-11 Actual (\$'000)	2011-12 Actual (\$'000)	2012-13 Revised Budget (\$'000)
Schools National Projects	2,413	2,546	2,052
PACER (Parliament and Civics Education Rebate)	3,971	5,841	5,525
Technical Infrastructure	7,395	2,600	2,600
Australian Government Quality Teacher Program	6,435	7,186	7,705
Community Festivals	700	700	700
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)	13,002	12,000	11,999
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	12,142	12,175	15,450
NBN Enabled Education and Skills Services Australia	0	2,618	7,875
ABC Digital Education	0	1,287	1,287
Quality Outcomes - Other	2,031	2,021	2,049
Civics and Citizenship	3,919	2,297	1,256
School Drug Education Strategy	320	0	0
Boosting Innovation, Science, Technology and Mathematics Teaching	2,071	0	0
Australian History Prize	119	103	0
Total Quality Outcomes	54,518 ⁽¹⁾	51,374 ⁽²⁾	58,498 ⁽³⁾

(1) DEEWR Annual Report 2010-11 page 291

(2) DEEWR Annual Report 2011-12 page 283

(3) DEEWR Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement page 35