

## Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013

#### Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0996\_13

Senator Mason asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 78

#### Question

##### Rock the Schools and Life Education Australia

Senator MASON:...I would like to go to Rewards for School Improvement. A couple of things stood out to me in DEEWR's grant register. I noticed there are a couple of grants awarded under the program 2.3, Schools Support, with the subprogram of Rewards for School Improvement. The relevant grants are GRN22980 and GRN22981. Does that sound correct?

Ms Bloor: Yes. ... Dr Day: I believe that they are funding agreements that we have with the Australian Council for Educational Research for the development of the National Plan for School Improvement tool. Senator MASON: Which we were discussing before?

Mr Cook: That is correct. Dr Day: I can take that on notice and come back to you.

Senator MASON: This is where I am a bit confused. If I embarrass myself, Dr Day, then we will carry on anyway. I am confused. Rewards for School Improvement has its own program, namely 2.15. Adding to this confusion is the purpose of the two grants. One is for a Rock the Schools tour and the other is for Life Education Australia's national office. Are you with me, Dr Day? Dr Day: I am not with you. That is not under the Rewards for School Improvement initiative. Ms Paul: It sounds different. We will need to take that on notice.

Dr Day: We will need to take it on notice. Ms Paul: Certainly those two things that you named are familiar, but not associated with the Rewards for School Improvement program.

Mr Cook: I think that is under 2.3, Schools Support, Student Resilience and Wellbeing.

Senator MASON: I do not want to detain the department on it for too long, although I do like the idea of this Rock for Schools. You did not go there, did you, Mr Cook?

Mr Cook: Rock Eisteddfod I know about, but not Rock for Schools. Senator MASON: I do not know what that is about. Mr Cook: It might be an Indigenous program? Ms Paul: It is the community festivals. Senator MASON: With your forbearance, Ms Paul, I might put some further questions on notice there. Ms Paul: In regard to those two, I presume you want to know what they are for? Senator MASON: Yes, I do. Ms Paul: That is fine.

#### Answer

##### *Rock the Schools*

In 2011–12, funding of \$400 000 was provided for the School Tours Australia - *Rock the Schools* project, from the Values Education sub-program under Outcome 2.3 Schools Supports, Quality Outcomes Program. *Rock the Schools* is a touring education and entertainment initiative designed to inspire secondary students across Australia to pursue a career in the music industry.

*Rock the Schools* takes up-and-coming Australian music bands on the road with six industry professionals from the Australian Institute of Music. *Rock the Schools* undertake a full day program in each school where students, aged 12–18 years, study a range of subjects associated with the music industry to develop skills and explore career options through four workshops facilitated by the Australian Institute of Music. The aim of the workshops is to equip students with basic information about the skills required to have a career in the Australian music industry (for example, sound engineer, accountant, promotion, musician, etc). The whole school attends a live concert in the school hall.

This is an education program that assists students develop self-esteem, optimism and commitment to personal fulfilment, and to exercise ethical judgement and social responsibility. The program delivers key messages on optimising student resilience and wellbeing.

### ***Life Education Australia***

In 2011–12 funding of \$300,000 (GST exclusive) was provided to enhance Life Education Australia's program quality by ensuring the program is consistent with evidence-based best practice.

In particular the grant provided for research, policy development and evaluation of the Life Education Australia Program delivered in schools. The grant provided Life Education Australia National Office with funds to establish and maintain relationships with their stakeholders and other organisations and creating alliances to increase their provision of school-based student resilience and wellbeing programs. Life Education Australia supports the delivery of health and drug education within school communities across Australia.