

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0999_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013 , Hansard page 84

Question

Anti Bullying Forum

Senator NASH: Is there any particular focus with the forum on children from rural, regional and remote areas? Mr Davies: I do not remember that specifically. Senator NASH: I only ask because I understand there has been some analysis done of the Kids Helpline and there is a higher proportion of rural and regional young people accessing the helpline. Given the data that is available, there was no consideration given to specifically addressing rural and regional through the bullying forum? Mr Davies: I do not have a copy of the report from the forum with me. I cannot recall so I would need to go back and check in the report, if that is okay.

Answer

On 31 July 2012 the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, convened a National Forum at Parliament House: *How schools and parents can work together to address bullying*. The Forum brought together principals, parents' groups, young people, and as well as experts in education, child welfare, psychology and marketing to discuss the important role of the school-family partnership to address the complex societal issue of bullying. The broad focus of the day was to seek positive and effective solutions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Australian school students, based on the key principles of the National Safe Schools Framework. While there was no specific focus at the forum on issues related to children from rural, regional or remote areas in Australia, the issues faced by children from those backgrounds were rolled up into the broader themes of the forum.

In particular the participants explored the roles of teachers, students and parents in addressing bullying with a focus on: family behaviour and practice; what schools, teachers, and students can do to better support families; and collaborative initiatives between families and schools.

The outcomes of the forum are informing the development of a suite of online resources, including resources for students, to support the aims of the National Safe Schools Framework. Where possible and appropriate these resources will focus on specific target groups including students from rural, regional and remote areas.