Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1000_13

Senator Nash asked on 14 February 2013 , Hansard page 84

Question

Safe and Supportive School Practices - Online Toolkit

Senator NASH: Is there an online toolkit? Mr Davies: Yes, several. Senator NASH: How much funding has gone into that? Mr Davies: We have provided to Education Services Australia $3.92 million. I should say all the state and territory education authorities are working with us on that as well. We have a collaborate group that is oversighting that work. Senator NASH: Is there any specific part of the online toolset that refers specifically or is specifically useful to rural and regional young people? Mr Davies: That is a good question and I do not know. Can I take that on notice to find out how that is being addressed? ....Senator NASH: Is there a hardcopy version of the toolkit in any way, shape or form to go to students who do not have access online? Mr Davies: I do not think so, but can I take that on notice? Senator NASH: You can. Can I ask you to take on notice as well: if not, why not?

Answer

The $3.92 million has been provided to Education Services Australia (ESA) to develop a suite of online resources to support school communities to implement the National Safe Schools Framework.

The online resources include a safe and supportive schools toolkit; parent and family resources; student resources; an online Professional Learning Modules for: specialist support staff; teachers and principals, and pre-service teachers. The resources will be housed on the Safe Schools Hub. The Safe Schools Toolkit was the first of these resources to be released and was launched on 15 March 2013.

The resources are designed to strengthen local and regionally-based school community initiatives and will include a range of targeted promotion strategies. ESA is developing strategies in consultation with stakeholders and key agencies to identify linkages with jurisdictional and national initiatives to maximise reach and impact. Under the funding agreement ESA is required to provide targeted information dissemination to specific audiences.

The student resources are yet to be developed and will be released in December 2013. Broad consultation will inform the development of these resources and to ensure the specific needs of target groups, such as rural and remote students, are met.

ESA develops a broad range of digital material and resources for Australian schools, students and teachers. All digital resources are accessible by all schools regardless of location, but some remote schools may need to download and store material on their local servers to enable access.

State and territory government and non-government education authorities are generally responsible for providing supporting teacher and learning resources in formats that meet the particular needs of their schools.

SQ13-000091