

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1001_13

Senator McKenzie asked on 14 February 2013 , Hansard page 85

Question

Update on Department's Response to the Cybersafety Initiative

Senator McKENZIE: Just on notice, could I have an update on the department's response to the cybersafety initiatives, and the government's response?

Answer

The Government response to the Joint Select Committee on Cyber-safety's interim report, *High-Wire Act. Cybersafety and the Young* is coordinated and managed by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE). DEEWR can provide the Department's status update only.

In January 2013, DEEWR provided a status update to DBCDE in response to the recommendations that are relevant to DEEWR. This update outlined the information below:

To support the take-up of the National Safe Schools Framework, the Australian Government has committed approximately \$4 million toward the development of new online toolkits, professional learning modules and resources. These resources are being developed and delivered by Education Services Australia.

These online resources will provide practical safe school, including cybersafety, information, support and guidance for students, parents, teachers, school leaders and for specialist staff including school counsellors, chaplains and student welfare workers.

This includes the development of a professional learning module for specialist school staff such as school counsellors, chaplains and student welfare workers.

These resources are available via a new dedicated website the Safe Schools Hub at www.safeschoolshub.edu.au that was launched on 15 March 2013. The Safe Schools Hub provides links to a broad range of related websites including Cybersmart and Stay Smart Online.

The implementation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (formerly known as the National Professional Standards for Teachers) throughout 2013 provides further impetus for new and existing teachers to be adequately equipped with skills and knowledge in relation to the responsible use of ICT, including an awareness of cyber-safety.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has been established to oversee the development of an Australian Curriculum from Foundation to Year 12, beginning with the learning areas of English, mathematics, science and history. The draft of the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education paper was released by ACARA in December 2012. It is open for public consultation until 12 April 2013.

The draft curriculum includes developing students' abilities to select, justify and reflect on emotional responses in a wide range of situations, including in family, social and online situations.