

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1006\_13**

**Senator Mason asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 91**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0739\_13*

**Question**

**DER - current connection speeds**

Senator MASON: In October I asked the department to provide a breakdown of connection speeds for secondary schools only across each state. I think I only got that information a couple of days ago. Is there a reason why it was so difficult to compile? Ms Paul: Can you provide the number? Senator MASON: I have not done very well with that today. Ms Bloor: It is 0739. Senator MASON: Is there a reason why it arrived with me, or the secretariat, two days ago? Ms Bloor: Not that I am aware of. The figures were derived from a survey that we took in 2010. Senator MASON: When did the department provide the information to the minister's office? .....Senator MASON: I know. Can you take on notice as to why that occurred, Ms Paul? Ms Paul: Yes.

**Answer**

As noted by Ms Paul, the response to question EW0739\_13 was amongst a number of Questions on Notice taken at the Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012—2013 in October 2012. The response period for these Questions on Notice coincided with the Christmas/New Year break when many Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) staff took annual leave. In addition, the preparation of the response to question EW0739\_13 required significant time to analyse and quality assure data provided to DEEWR by education authorities.