

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

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

#### **Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1008\_13**

**Senator Back asked on 14 February 2013 , Hansard page 93**

#### **Question**

##### **Copyright Licences for Schools**

Senator BACK: And so any additional maintenance costs now would be on the school. While I am asking, copyright licenses for schools who are putting textbooks online—are there copyright costs associated with that move and who is meeting them? Mr Hehir: I think the team who deal with copyright issues have just departed. Can I take that on notice?

#### **Answer**

Schools do not have any general right to copy textbooks online without a licence.

Schools do have a statutory licence under the Copyright Act permitting them to copy a limited portion of any book or other printed work, including online books. They can copy up to 10 per cent or one chapter of any work subject to paying a fee to the appointed collecting society that represents copyright owners.

Australian Schools paid \$59.6 million in 2012 for this licence. It covers scanning from books (a form of 'hardcopy to digital' copying), copying from hardcopy to hardcopy (e.g. photocopying), digital to hardcopy (e.g. printing) and digital to digital (e.g. copying from the Internet).

Copyright licence fees are split between all government and non-government school authorities in proportion to student numbers. Payments are mostly paid centrally by the relevant department of education (for government schools) and the Catholic Education Commission/Office in each state/territory while the Independent schools pay on an individual schools basis (administered by the Association of Independent Schools in each state/territory).