

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.1 – Funding for Schools

#### **DEST Question No. E074\_06**

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 108.

#### **Question:**

It has been said that a couple of chapters are ready to go on reports 2 and 3. When will they be completed? Do we have to wait for four years for those as well?

#### **Answer:**

*Availability of 2001 National Report on Schooling (ANR)*

The complete 2001 ANR is on the MCEETYA website with hard copies printed and in the process of distribution.

#### **2002 and 2003 ANRs**

As of 23 June 2005, 6 out of 15 chapters of the 2002 ANR have been completed and are available on-line as are two of the 2003 ANR chapters. The MCEETYA Secretariat is expediting publication of these chapters.

#### **Timing of future ANRs**

In response to concerns over the timeliness of ANRs, MCEETYA's Performance Measurement and Reporting Taskforce (PMRT) endorsed a set of procedures for publication of the ANR to speed up the approval and turn-around time of chapters. The key undertaking is that jurisdictions will provide input and/or feedback within strict timelines. For example, jurisdictions have undertaken to provide approval for publication on-line of draft sections within 15 working days of receiving ANR material (20 working days in the case of literacy and numeracy data). Where no written feedback is received within the set timeline, it is assumed that the jurisdiction has approved the section. The publication procedures are available on the MCEETYA website at: <http://www.mceetya.edu.au/taskfrce/task224.htm>.

In addition, the legislation covering Australian Government funding to schools for 2005-2008, the *Schools Assistance (Learning Together - Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Act 2004*, includes provisions which aim to improve the timeliness of future ANRs. The Act requires that, as a condition of financial assistance, grantees make a commitment "to the publication, within one year after the end of each program year, of a national report on the outcomes of schooling", that is, the ANR. Furthermore, it is an educational accountability requirement that grantees provide their input for the ANR not later than a date determined by the Minister (if he determines such a date), or by a date which will allow publication of the report within one year after the end of each programme year.