

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW671_09

Senator Boyce asked on 4 June 2008, EEWHR Hansard page 40.

Question

You have said that you are working closely with states at the moment. Does that mean that you have not sorted out the criteria by which this funding would be proportioned?

This question is in context of discussions about professional development that will be provided for a minimum of 1800 teachers and other school staff as part of DEEWR's components of the *Helping children with autism* package.

Prior to this question, Senator Boyce asked: "Is there a breakdown of where those 1,800 staff are? Have you said you will give a certain amount to New South Wales?"

Answer

As part of the *Helping children with autism* package the Australian Government is providing professional development of up to 5 days for a minimum of 1800 teachers and other school staff who work with students with autism spectrum disorder. This equates to 450 teachers/school staff each calendar year over 2008-11 inclusive.

For planning purposes, places have been notionally allocated to states and territories in proportion to their share of total student enrolments. However, the final distribution of places will depend on uptake in each state and territory.

The selected provider, the Australian Autism Education and Training Consortium (AAETC), is working closely with state and territory government and non-government education authorities to ensure the selection of participants ensures the best possible opportunity to build school and system capacity.