

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome **2**

DEEWR Question No. EW0074_10

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

Australian Youth Forum

Can you tell me about the **youTHINK** forums? How do they differ from the Australian Youth Forum outreach events?

Answer

To date, there have been two **youTHINK** forums. The first one was held in February 2009 and provided over 600 young people with the opportunity to come together in ten locations around Australia to discuss their ideas on the issues of 'Violence and Safety' and 'Contributing to our Democracy'.

The second one, organised in partnership with the Salvation Army, was held on 30 June 2009 and involved around 1000 of disadvantaged and marginalized young people in more than 30 locations around the country. All discussed the following four topics: 'Youth Homelessness', 'The Impact of Global Financial Crisis on Young People', 'Youth Compact' and 'Access to Government Services'.

The **youTHINK** forums differ from the outreach events, in that they are large scale national events on specific topics, held in a number of locations and involving hundreds of young people. The outreach events involve the Hon Kate Ellis MP, the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth meeting directly with young people in local communities to discuss issues of importance to them.