

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

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

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW0079_10

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

Australian Youth Forum (AYF) website

On the Australian Youth Forum website there are discussions about Binge Drinking and Global Poverty. Who decides what topics should be discussed on the site? Are the comments posted up there moderated, edited or censored? How many comments have not been posted up and what was the reason for this? Who decides what is posted and what is not? If some comments are not posted, are submitters notified their comments will not be posted?

Answer

Discussion topics can be suggested by any young person via the Australian Youth Forum (AYF) website and at AYF events, by AYF Steering Committee members or by government and non-government agencies. The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth approves discussion topics based on recommendations from the AYF Youth Engagement Steering Committee and/or the Office for Youth.

The comments submitted to the website are moderated using the website 'Terms of Use'. Comments that are defamatory, obscene, illegal, off-topic or that include advertising of a commercial nature are not posted. Input from young people is not edited. Of these, 44 submissions were not posted as they breached the Terms of Use. Officers in the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Office for Youth undertake the moderation of the website. If a comment is not posted the submitter is notified by email and asked to resubmit the post in line with the Terms of Use, which are sent together with the rejected email.