

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

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

Outcome **2**

DEEWR Question No. EW0322_10

Senator Cormann asked on 3 June 2009, EEWHR Hansard page 29.

Question

Languages in crisis: a rescue plan for Australia

In regards to the report, *Languages in crisis: a rescue plan for Australia*:

- (i) has the Government reviewed the report?
- (ii) is the Government planning on implementing any of its recommendations and, if so, what recommendations?

Answer

- (i) Yes.
- (ii) The provision of languages education in Australian schools has progressed considerably since *Languages in crisis* was released in 2007.

The Government is providing \$62.4 million over four years for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program to increase the number of students who undertake studies of the languages and cultures of our Asian neighbours, namely China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.

The Government also provides significant funding to state and territory government and non-government education authorities, through the National Education Agreement and the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*, to support the learning of all languages in Australian schools and after-hours community languages schools. A range of languages programs are being delivered by these authorities.

National curriculum for languages will be developed as a second phase of the work of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.