

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

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

Outcome **2**

DEEWR Question No. EW0350_10

Senator Mason asked on 3 June 2009, EEWL Hansard page 94-95.

Question

Recommendations from the National School Music Workshop

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0828_09

I asked a question on notice: What progress has been made to implement the program recommendations from the national school music workshop?

In response, the government advised that the following initiatives were in place—and there are six of them. The response was:

1. first of all, the national awards for excellence in school music education;
2. secondly, the Music Count Us In program;
3. thirdly, music education advisory group;
4. fourthly, funding for Musica Viva in schools;
5. fifthly, funding for The Song Room, and
6. sixthly, the development of the national curriculum.

I think I am right in saying that all of those initiatives were initiatives of the Howard Government, is that right?

Answer

1-5) Yes – Funding for these initiatives was initially approved between November 2006 and August 2007. Funding approved since January 2008 includes:

| Initiative | Funding and Approval |
|--|---|
| National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education (2008, 2009 and 2010) | Funding of \$300 000 over 2009–2010 approved, January 2008 |
| 'Music. Count Us In' (2008 and 2009) | Funding of \$480 000 for 'Music. Count Us In 2008' approved, May 2008 Funding of \$480 000 for 'Music. Count Us In 2009' approved, June 2009 |
| Music Education Advisory Group | Funding of \$60 000 in 2008–2009 approved, May 2008 |
| The Song Room | Funding of \$1 000 000 over 2008–2010 approved, January 2008 |

Funding of \$300 000 was provided for 'Music. Count Us In' in 2007. Increased funding was provided in subsequent years. The funding for 'Music. Count Us In' in both 2008 and 2009 includes funding of \$150 000 for a teacher professional development component.

Since January 2008, funding of \$2.32 million has been committed by the Australian Government to school music education initiatives.

6) The Australian Government has committed to the development of a rigorous, world-class national curriculum for all Australian students from kindergarten to Year 12, initially in English, mathematics, science and history. At its meeting in Adelaide on 17 April 2009, the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs decided that the arts, including music, should form part of the second stage of national curriculum development (along with languages and geography). The inclusion of the arts in the national curriculum will provide opportunities for teachers to expand and update their arts skills and knowledge and will also ensure students receive high quality instruction.