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

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

**Outcome 2**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0351_10**

Senator Mason asked on 3 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 95.

**Question**

*Access to music education*

Also, if you could take on notice, have any other initiatives been put in place for the 77 per cent of state school students who currently do not have any access to music at school? I am concerned about what the government is doing.

**Answer**

States and territories have music education initiatives in place in their jurisdictions such as, for example, the Queensland Instrumental Music Program and the Western Australian Department of Education and Training's School of Instrumental Music. The *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, agreed in December 2008, promotes the development of world-class curriculum in the arts and commits all jurisdictions to ensuring young Australians have opportunities to use their creative abilities.

The inclusion of music as part of the arts national curriculum will provide opportunities for teachers to expand and update their skills and knowledge and will also ensure students receive high quality instruction. Every Australian student will have access to the same high quality curriculum content, regardless of their socio-economic background or the location or type of school that they attend.

In addition as outlined in QON EW0350_10, since January 2008, funding of $2.32 million has been committed by the Australian Government to school music education initiatives. This includes funding for the National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education, the Music Education Advisory Group, The Song Room, ‘Music. Count Us In. 2008’ and ‘Music. Count Us In. 2009’.

As outlined in QON EW0133_10, support for the refurbishment of buildings, such as school recording studios is available through the Building the Education Revolution program. Schools can include the purchase and installation of equipment necessary for the facility to be operational in the project costs.