

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0088_11

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

**PROGRAM 2.9: SMARTER SCHOOLS - IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

How much of the appropriated money has already been spent at a school level?

Answer

To date, the Commonwealth has paid \$19,000,514 to the states and territories under the *Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership* (TQNP) which aims to provide system-wide reforms at the national and jurisdiction level in areas such as:

- national professional standards for teachers;
- nationally agreed accreditation of Accomplished and Leading Teacher;
- improved mobility of the teaching workforce; and
- improved pay dispersion to reward quality teachers.

Funding under the TQNP is not provided to schools but to states and territories, with each jurisdiction then determining the funding to be used for implementation of system-wide reform and funding to be provided to individual schools to participate in the reform processes.

To ensure states and territories implement the reforms under the National Partnership, details about responsibilities and milestones are outlined in state and territory implementation plans.

For each year of the National Partnership states and territories must provide the Department with:

- a six month Progress Report (due 30 October each year), which details progress and milestones achieved in the first half of the calendar year to 30 June; and
- an Annual Report (due 30 April each year) which details progress and milestones achieved in the previous calendar year.

The Department checks each state and territory's Progress Report and Annual Report against their implementation plans to ensure milestones have been achieved. Once satisfied that the specified milestones have been achieved the Australian Government, through the Commonwealth Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, informs the Commonwealth Treasurer to process the appropriate facilitation payment as per each state and territories Bilateral Agreement.