

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0089_11

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

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

How is the department monitoring that the money is indeed being spent by the states, and that it is done in a timely manner and spent efficiently?

Answer

States and territories have signed bilateral agreements with the Australian Government agreeing to implement the reforms under the National Partnership with details about responsibilities and milestones outlined in state and territory implementation plans. These can be found at www.deewr.gov.au/smarterschools.

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.