

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0316_11

Senator Scullion asked on 2/06/2010, Hansard page 48.

Question

Indigenous Education Statement

Senator SCULLION—Where would I go to find those reports? Are they on the net? Are they public reports?

Mr Coutts—The material in them is not of a nature that would not be able to be made public. I do not know if they are published.

Ms Paul—Would you like us to look at that for you?

Senator SCULLION—I would. It provides feedback on how the funding is being spent.

Ms Paul—Yes, that is right.

Senator SCULLION—We are talking about Indigenous support. I am sorry that I do not have an in-depth knowledge of the actual breakdown of the programs and how they are spending that money. I have made an assumption that the IES was to provide you with some accountability about how the \$34 million is being expended. Ms Paul—Yes.

Senator SCULLION—If they are public then I will not worry you anymore about it; but, if they are not public, can you provide them.

Ms Paul—I think it is a fair thing to be able to do so. If they are not, I am quite happy to have a look at them and send them in.

Senator SCULLION—One of the challenges is the time of the year that it is and the process of taking something like that on notice. Would you be able to find that out for me this afternoon?

Ms Paul—Yes. No problem.

Senator SCULLION—Whether it is on the public record, where I can find it and if you have copies of it.

Ms Paul—Yes.

Senator SCULLION—I will keep in touch with the chair on that.

Answer

The annual provision of an Indigenous Education Statement (IES) to DEEWR is a mandatory requirement of grants made to Table A providers under the Other Grants Guidelines of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. The legislation does not require a provider to make its IES publicly available, although DEEWR encourages providers to post the IES on their websites and advise the department of the weblink.

Copies of the 2010 IESs will be provided to the committee.