

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0365_11

Senator Mason asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 40.

Question

National Partnership Funding

Senator MASON—We heard the evidence before that in fact it is funded by the Western Australian state government. That was the evidence. Are you saying that is wrong?

Ms Banks—No, I am not saying that is wrong. It is one of the activities for which the state government—

Ms Paul—Might be using that national partnership, so the reference is about the quality teaching national partnership. It is those sorts of activities which can be rewarded under that partnership.

Senator MASON—But it is funded by the state government?

Ms Paul—It is joint, so the national partnership—

Senator MASON—It might be joint, depending—

Ms Paul—But the national partnership funding comes from the Commonwealth.

Senator MASON—Yes, the Commonwealth might contribute; is that right?

Ms Paul—The national partnership funding comes from the Commonwealth. This is an activity which the state might be using to try to access the Commonwealth reward funding.

Senator MASON—Yes, it might be; that is my point. It might, but not necessarily.

Ms Paul—We would have to check.....

CHAIR—... really. Let us get back to questions.

Senator MASON—Anything else to add on that, Ms Paul?

Ms Wall—We would need to check the details of those individual schools, and we can do that. My understanding is that, as Ms Banks said, the teacher quality initiative comprises both facilitation and reward funding. I believe that some of those schools are using Commonwealth facilitation funding for this initiative, and my expectation is a number would expect to receive reward funding should they—

Senator MASON—But we do not know they are.

Ms Wall—I do understand at least some, if not all, are receiving facilitation, and I can check that.

Senator MASON—Thank you.

Answer

WA Independent Public Schools is an initiative of the Teacher Quality National Partnership. Through the Teacher Quality National Partnership, the Australian Government is providing funding to all states and territories to implement a suite of mandatory facilitation and optional reward reforms.

The WA Independent Public Schools initiative is encompassed in three reforms under

the Teacher Quality National Partnership:

- Compulsory facilitation reform: World leading professional development and support for principals
- Optional reward reform: Increased school based decision making about recruitment, staffing mix and budget
- Optional reward reform: Improved school support for teachers and leaders, particularly in disadvantaged Indigenous, rural/remote and hard to staff schools.

To date, WA has received funding for the component of the Independent Public Schools initiative that falls within the scope of the mandatory facilitation reform. WA is contributing, at a minimum, a co investment proportional to its facilitation funding.

WA has not yet received any funding for the components of the initiative that fall within the optional reward reforms.

The Council of Australian Governments Reform Council (CRC) will be responsible for assessing implementation and achievement of reward reforms.