

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0368_11

Senator Cormann asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 49.

Question

TTC - CLUSTERING

Dr Bruniges—Depending on the nature of the course and what it has been doing. I would have to look at the individual case, but probably not.

Senator CORMANN—The individual case of Edward John Eyre High School, which is clustering with Ceduna Area School, is 454 kilometres away; Cleve Area School is 146 kilometres away; Cummins Area School is 257 kilometres away; Port Lincoln High School is 266 kilometres away; Streaky Bay Area School is 376 kilometres away and Wudinna Area School is 242 kilometres away. It does not sound like ‘close proximity’ to me.

Dr Bruniges—It depends on the nature of what is being delivered and how it is being delivered. I am happy to have a look at that case.

Answer

Under the Program schools are able to apply and operate as a cluster. This way schools can cooperate in terms of sharing training facilities and teachers to broaden the choice of training options for students.

EdwardJohnEyreHigh School is the LeadSchool for this approved South Australian Round Two project. The cluster schools in this project are StreakyBayAreaSchool, StuartHigh School, WhyallaHigh School, WudinnaAreaSchool, CedunaAreaSchool, CleveAreaSchool, CowellAreaSchool, CumminsAreaSchool, KimbaAreaSchool, and PortLincolnHigh School. Each site is proposing to refurbish existing facilities, purchase new equipment and/or develop new facilities.

The project was initiated by the schools based on previous experience in delivering senior secondary curriculum across the Eyre and Western region which has evolved to improve access for Indigenous and mainstream students living in isolated communities. The delivery of the Eyre PeninsulaSportsAcademy from PortLincolnHigh School is a current example of this approach. This project extends the model to the delivery of vocational education and training across the region.

A number of the cluster schools are located in small regional towns with a small student population. There are not enough secondary school students at these sites to form a class. Historically, training has been delivered through a mix of telephone contact and staff visiting schools.

The TTC project will use a combination of training delivery via video conference

facilities installed at each site and face-to-face visits by RTOs, allowing students to participate in certificate level training while staying within their local community. The TTC sites are located strategically around the Eyre Peninsula to offer students access to a variety of options rather than a single area of training that would be available at one site.

The project demonstrates the schools' commitment to providing trade training opportunities for students in rural and remote areas.

The proponents have developed a number of approaches to underpin the delivery model, such as:

- a large ICT component (video conferencing) will provide each site with a video conferencing facility to reduce the travel and accommodation issues;
- flexible methods of delivery, including block timetabling and the provision of mobile training facilities;
- accommodation and duty of care will be arranged, if required, through financial support available from the State Industry Skills Program for Students; and
- strong governance arrangements between the schools underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding.

Training being delivered includes:

Certificate	School
Certificate III in Seafood Industry (Aquaculture)	CedunaAreaSchool CowellAreaSchool PortLincolnHigh School StuartHigh School
Certificate III in Engineering	CowellAreaSchool EdwardJohnEyreHigh School Streaky BayAreaSchool WudinnaAreaSchool
Certificate III in Carpentry	Streaky BayAreaSchool
Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)	KimbaAreaSchool PortLincolnHigh School Streaky BayAreaSchool WhyallaHigh School
Certificate III in Rural Operations	CleveAreaSchool
Certificate III in Agriculture	CleveAreaSchool CumminsAreaSchool

This project is supported by the South Australia Department of Education and Children's Services.