

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0393_11

Senator Mason asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 110.

Question

BENCHMARKS

Senator MASON—But any of them? I want to know any of them. Are you aware of any instances where a state's benchmark is industry standard or any industry standards, or are they all internal benchmarks?

Mr Manthorpe—We are just checking. There may be a state or two where we know that.

Senator MASON—You do not know that off the top of your head?

Mr Manthorpe—Not off the top of my head, no.

Senator MASON—That says a lot in itself.

Mr Manthorpe—That depends.

CHAIR—That depends on the context.

Ms Paul—I do not know that it does.

Senator MASON—Okay. Are you finding this out right now?

Mr Manthorpe—We are seeing whether we have information on that with us. If we do we will answer the question as best we can. If we do not we will take the matter on notice.

Answer

State and Territory Education Authorities use a variety of approaches to benchmark prices for their BER construction projects. All use the services of Quantity Surveyors to measure tendered prices against prevailing market rates. Quantity Surveyors would use a variety of sources to validate pricing. In some cases, commercially available references may be used, however in most cases, the Quantity Surveyors use proprietary databases that they believe are more contemporary and adaptable to the building specifications stipulated by each Education Authority