

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0397_11

Senator Mason asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 122.

Question

Commonwealth's Ability To Recover Money From The States

Senator MASON—One issue that I did ask to be taken on notice was the Commonwealth's ability to recover money from the states as compared with the block grant authorities. Has anybody got to the bottom of that?

Ms Paul—No, I just wanted to get the legalities correct, so we will have to come back to you on notice.

Senator MASON—It is a critical issue.

Ms Paul—Yes, I understand that.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Just while you are on that question on notice, though, I am sorry, could we have an historical perspective on that as well?

Ms Paul—Yes.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Thank you.

Answer

The answer to Senator Mason's question was tabled on 23 June 2010 (please refer to QoN EW0392_11).

In response to Senator Collins' question, the current arrangements for the Commonwealth to recover funds from state governments are set out in the bilateral agreements that the Commonwealth has with each state and territory government. These were signed in the first quarter of 2009.