

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No: EW0149\_12**

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.**

**Question**

**National Mental Health Reform – Social Engagement and Emotional  
Development Survey for Children Aged 8 To 14 Years**

I refer to p. 26 of the Portfolio Budget Statement, DEEWR Budget Statement. Please provide details National Mental Health Reform – Social Engagement and Emotional Development survey for children aged 8 to 14 years program, including: a - the nature of the program/s b- spending over forward estimates c - key deliverables for the program/s

**Answer**

The Social Engagement and Emotional Development survey for children aged 8 to 14 years is a measure under the *Government's National Mental Health Reform package*.

**The program**

National data will be developed specifically for young people in their middle years through this national survey.

The survey is intended for repeated long term use and will monitor trends in children's wellbeing in the middle years, among different groups of Australian children, and among Australian children in international comparison.

The survey data will:

- focus on the social and emotional development of young people and the impact this has on their wellbeing and resilience.
- help understand patterns and variation in Australian children's wellbeing across groups and in international comparison, with a particular emphasis on children who experience disadvantage.
- inform future policy to respond to the social, emotional and mental health needs of Australian children and young people in their middle years.

**Spending over forward estimates**

The Government will provide \$1.5 million over five years to develop a national social engagement and emotional development survey for children aged 8 to 14 years.