

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0228_12

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Education Including SEAM

1. How many people in each SEAM site have had their payments suspended during the period of the trials? How many people are currently suspended for each site? What is the average length of the suspension periods?
2. For each site, please provide data which shows school attendance at, or just before, the start of the trial and comparable data on the current rate of attendance.

Answer

1. From SEAM's commencement to 1 April 2011, 43 parents in the Northern Territory and 82 parents in Queensland have had their income support payments suspended for failing to provide enrolment information or take reasonable steps to ensure their child attends school regularly.

As at 1 April 2011, five parents in the Northern Territory and no parents in Queensland were subject to a current suspension under SEAM.

A breakdown of current suspensions by location for all Queensland and Northern Territory SEAM trial sites has not been provided due to the small number of sanctions in some locations which may result in the parent or children being identifiable.

The average length of a suspension (enrolment and attendance suspensions) across Queensland and the Northern Territory is 14 days.

2. The state/territory education authorities collect and hold attendance data for SEAM schools and they report on cases of low attendance to Centrelink. A full evaluation of the trial will be conducted on its completion. The evaluation will examine any impacts on attendance rates as a result of the SEAM trial.