

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0111_13

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

AuSSI Program

I refer to a submission by Dr Jennifer Pearson of the Australian Association for Environmental Education stating that since 2010, annual funding for AuSSI has been “drastically” cut. Can you specify by what amount, if any, funding to DEEWR for its involvement in AuSSI has decreased or changed in anyway since 2010?

From its involvement does DEEWR believe the project is working and has value??

If not will the funding afforded DEEWR for its work on the AuSSI program be simply with drawn, directed to a new program that would replace the current AuSSI model?

From the perspective of DEEWR, what reason has the Department been given for the cuts to AuSSI?

Answer

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities is responsible for the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI).