

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0400_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012 , Hansard page 38

Question

Studying languages data

Senator MASON: You can see why it is important data. Without being too pointed about it, members of parliament will want it to make sensible policy decisions. Are there enough teachers? There has been a small increase. How many more young Australians took up the offer? That is important; we need to know that. And you can't do any better than that? That is as good as it gets, is it?

Ms Davy: I am happy to take that on notice to explore into the detail and get some explicit number crunching done on the survey for you—

Senator MASON: If you could that would be great.

Ms Davy: and certainly to follow up on the publication

Answer

Teacher workforce planning, including the adequacy of supply, is a matter for state and territory government and non-government education authorities.

The Australian Government does not currently publish comprehensive national data on language teachers. The 2010 Staff in Australian Schools national survey of teachers and leaders provides an estimate of the number of teachers teaching Languages other than English (LOTE) by extrapolating from survey responses.

The 2010 Staff in Australian Schools survey reported an increase of 1,000 on the estimated number of 5,700 secondary teachers who were teaching LOTE since the 2007 Staff in Australian Schools survey.

The Australian Government is working with states and territories through the Smarter Schools - Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership facilitation reform to improve the quality and availability of workforce data. This is intended to improve school workforce planning to address key issues such as teacher shortages in key subjects.