

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0428_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012 , Hansard page 64

Question

Digital Education - Speeds

Senator MASON: I understand that, but I need more specificity—I want to know about speeds. Does the department have, or can it obtain, the speeds of the high-speed fibre connections from schools to the internet? The categories will be from zero to 20 megabytes per second, then 20 to 40 megabytes and so on. Does that make sense? Ms Bloor: Yes. Senator MASON: Can you break it down into the categories of under 20, 21 to 40, 41 to 60, 61 to 80 and 80 to 100? Ms Bloor: We do ask. We have conducted a broadband connectivity survey over the last several years. We have asked some of those questions. I can certainly provide what information we have. As to actual usage, though, I imagine that would be a matter for the educational authority and the provider. We may still only be giving you estimated ranges. Senator MASON: Best endeavours again, is it? Ms Paul: It sounds like we are able to offer something on capacity but not necessarily on usage. Is that a way of putting it? Ms Bloor: Yes. Senator MASON: You can provide the committee with capacity— Ms Paul: Yes, that is what we will take on notice—to give you the capacity, which is what they provide us information on. Ms Hanlon: Probably at jurisdictional level too. Senator MASON: Do you have that? By jurisdiction is fine. Ms Paul: Yes, we will take that on notice. Senator MASON: It would be very helpful to have that information by jurisdiction as well—for the categories government, non-government, Catholic, state and territory.

Answer

Education authorities have agreed for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to provide the following figures for broadband capacity in schools from all sectors at a state and territory level. These figures include capacity available on fibre, copper, wireless, satellite and other types of technology providing broadband connectivity to schools. The data is based on a response rate of 95.2 per cent to the 2010 schools connectivity survey which is the most recent available across all sectors. Recent information available to DEEWR suggests that in some jurisdictions higher capacity is now available.

TABLE A – STATE AND TERRITORY LEVEL DATA

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Capacity available (Mbps)	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected	Number of schools connected
≤ 4	2	1327	112	1422	596	56	328	387
5-20	32	1723	68	291	195	230	1919	640
21-50	-	23	-	12	3	5	82	10
51-100	-	20	5	7	10	6	4	13
>100	87	12	-	11	6	1	-	2
Unknown	1	8	13	-	-	2	19	3
Total	122	3113	198	1743	810	300	2352	1055