

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

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

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0429_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012 , Hansard page 68

Question

Funding for literacy and numeracy

Senator MASON: I have questions from Senator Back, but I have a couple more of my own left. Ms Paul, when I was looking through the budget papers and the PBS I noticed that new funding for literacy and numeracy, which is \$243 million over 18 months, was included in the PBS under funding for the National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy, which is \$650 million over four years. Is that correct? Ms Hanlon: That is correct. Senator MASON: And this \$243 million was announced by Mr Garrett just before the budget, wasn't it? Ms Hanlon: That is correct. Senator MASON: I was wondering why it appears in the PBS but not as a budget measure in budget paper No. 2. Ms Paul: I do not know. I am not sure. We might have to take that on notice. It might be because of the nature of the national partnership, where national partnerships are delivered through Treasury. Unless Ms Hanlon can say— Ms Hanlon: I will try. I think I can. This is an extension of the literacy and numeracy national partnership over the next 18 months. Senator MASON: Is it common that programs that are realistically budget measures are left out of the budget papers but are included in the PBS? Ms Paul: I do not know. Senator MASON: That just does not seem right. Not that I am a great expert in it. Ms Paul: I think we will take that on notice and check. I do not think Mr Storen is here, so I think I will take it on notice.

Answer

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, funding delivered to states and territories through a National Partnership is held in the Treasury's estimates. This includes the current Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership. DEEWR was permitted to roll-out the extension of Literacy and Numeracy funding in the Department's forward estimates under Program 2.6, after the current NP funding expires in 2011-2012.