

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0390_13

Senator Nash asked on 31 May 2012, Hansard page 27

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW1015_12.

Question

Panel School Visits

Senator NASH: I understand what you are saying—that there was that sort of early connection—but out of all the panel's school visits and the school community forums why were there not any held in what I would call regional Australia? Ms Paul: They are the more recent. There are two things here. One is what the panel went and did, and Ms Hanlon has given you a sense of that and taken it on notice to be more precise about that. The community forums are the more recent consultation events, arising after the release of the Gonski review to seek people's reactions to it, and I need to take that on notice and come back to you with the detail of that.

Answer

Over the period from July to December 2010, panel members met with 71 education groups across Australia including government and non-government education authorities, education unions, parent and principals' associations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and disability groups. These organisations presented views on a range of issues including rural and regional issues, which were presented in the *Review of Funding for Schooling: Emerging Issues Paper* released by the panel for public comment in December 2010.

The consultation forums and events were conducted in a range of locations and where possible in locations that would enable the use of technology such as live streaming to achieve geographical coverage throughout Australia. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter were available to provide real time community engagement during the events and forums and videos of the forums are available on the *Your School, Our Future* website.