

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

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

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0427_13

Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012 , Hansard page 64

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW1222_12.

Question

Digital Education - Fibre connections

Senator MASON: Do you know how many of these 201—or so, I understand that—secondary schools already have a pre-existing fibre connection which has been provided by the relevant state or non-government educational authority? Or by the school itself? How many do not have an existing fibre connection and will therefore take up the NBN connection? Ms Bloor: We do not have that level of specificity. We know that about 66 per cent of schools do have fibre connections, but that percentage does not apply to those schools in the NBN rollout areas. Senator MASON: Are you going to find out? Ms Bloor: We can try to find out.

Answer

Of the approximately 201 schools in locations which are planned for NBN rollout in 2012, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations estimates that there were 96 schools providing secondary education that were already connected to fibre in 2010, prior to the commencement of the NBN rollout. These figures are derived from the 2010 schools connectivity survey conducted by the Department which had a 95.2 per cent response rate.

Whether schools already connected to fibre choose to connect to NBN fibre is a matter for the relevant schools authority, taking into account a number of issues including the commercial arrangements in place with service providers and individual schools, education authorities or whole of government purchasing authorities; and the scope for better deals in relation to capacity and pricing under new commercial arrangements with the rollout of the NBN.