

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW828_09

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Music. Count Us In and the National School Music Workshop

- 1) In relation to the Music. Count Us In program:
 - a) How was Music. Count Us In funded this year?
 - b) Is Music. Count Us In to be refunded for 2009?
- 2) What progress has been made to implement the programme recommendations from the National School Music Workshop?

Answer

- 1a) In 2008, Music. Count Us In received funding of \$330,000 from the Quality Outcomes Program – Other Initiatives and funding of \$150,000 from the Australian Government Quality Teacher Program.
- 1b) No decision has been made in relation to 2009 funding for this initiative.
- 2) The National Music Workshop was held on 27–28 August 2006, and constituted the second stage of the National Review of School Music Education. The Report of the National Music Workshop contained eight core recommendations as follows:
 1. Elevate the status of music
 2. Establish a national model music curriculum
 3. Integrate the music curriculum
 4. Build momentum
 5. Extend teacher training
 6. Transform primary school music
 7. Create a national music education resource
 8. Measure and report on music programs.

The following initiatives seek to implement one or more of these recommendations:

National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education (Recommendation 1)

These awards recognise outstanding contributions to enhancing the status and quality of school music education by 11 teachers and two school leaders each year. The awards are administered on behalf of the Australian Government by the Australian Society for Music Education. Total funding for the awards is \$100,000 per year over 2007–2010.

Music. Count Us In 2007 and 2008 (Recommendations 1, 5 and 6)

The Music Council of Australia received funding of \$300,000 to run *Music. Count Us In* in 2007, as part of the 'Music. Play for Life' campaign. The centrepiece of this initiative was a song, written by John Foreman, which was simultaneously performed by children in primary and high schools all over Australia on Thursday, 30 August 2007. 850 schools participated in this event.

Funding of \$330,000 under the Quality Outcomes Program – Other Initiatives, and \$150,000 under the Australian Government Quality Teacher Program, was provided to the Music Council of Australia to run *Music. Count Us In* again in 2008. The featured song, *Sing*, was composed by four Victorian secondary school students in a song writing workshop led by John Foreman. *Sing* was simultaneously performed by children in primary and high schools all over Australia on Thursday, 23 October 2008. In addition to the song, the 2008 program included a teacher professional development component aimed at enabling generalist primary school teachers to have the confidence to teach music. More than 1,600 schools participated in this event.

Music Education Advisory Group (Recommendation 8)

The Music Education Advisory Group comprises state and territory government representatives, as well as key music stakeholders. Funding of \$60,000 is available in 2008-09 for meeting costs and minor projects recommended by the Group.

Musica Viva in Schools (Recommendations 1 and 5)

Musica Viva will receive \$1 million over 2008–2010 to extend their live concerts and teacher professional development programs to regional and remote areas.

The Song Room (Recommendations 1, 4 and 6)

The Song Room will receive \$1 million over 2008–2010 to support the provision of music workshops, holiday programs and performances nationally for students in schools with no existing specialist music teaching and a high level of need.

Development of national curriculum (Recommendations 2 and 3)

National curriculum is being developed, starting with the key learning areas of English, mathematics, the sciences and history. As a second phase of work, national curriculum will be developed in languages and geography.

As work on national curriculum progresses it may be that other subject areas, such as music, are considered.