

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW831_09

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Cultural Ministers' Council Arts Education Workplan

I note that the Cultural Minister's Council Communiqué dated 29th February 2008, stated:

"Ministers noted the Australian Government's commitment to working collaboratively with the states and territories, and the arts and education sectors, to achieve a commitment to enhanced delivery of arts education, with music as an initial focus. Ministers agreed to the establishment of a Joint Implementation Group to develop an arts education workplan for consideration at the next CMC meeting in October 2008.

Ministers provided in-principle agreement for the development of an arts education workplan. Building on existing initiatives, the workplan will include action in response to the National Education and the Arts Statement, National Review of School Music Education and National Review of Visual Education and the development of cooperative programs to meet areas of need in schools and universities. Ministers recommend the inclusion of the arts as a key learning area in the national curriculum which is being developed.

Ministers agreed to initiate action to increase access to school music education, with an initial focus on primary schools which have no music programs. This will be achieved through working with the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs and the Music Education Advisory Group to encourage the improved provision of music education in schools and the enhancement of artist-in-residence programs to cover identified gaps in existing programs."

- a) What input has the Department and the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs had into this action plan?
- b) Is the Federal Government requiring funding for the action plan?
- c) Given the emphasis on assisting "primary schools which have no music programs" can the Department advise how many primary schools in Australia currently have no music program?

Answer

- a) The Joint Implementation Working Group – Education and the Arts (JIWG) is a joint initiative by the Cultural Ministers Council and the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs. JIWG is convened by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. As well as the Australian Government Departments of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the education and arts departments in each state and territory, and the Australia Council are represented on the JIWG.

Departmental officers attend JIWG meetings. The Department has provided information on current arts education programs administered by the Department to inform the arts education workplan.

- b) The JIWG workplan was considered by the Cultural Ministers Council in October 2008. It will also be considered by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs.
- c) The report of the National Review of School Music Education (2005) commented that it was “not possible to give a complete and accurate portrait of student participation and achievement in music across Australian schools. States and Territories do not aggregate information on students studying music K-10”. In a small sample of (primary and secondary) schools surveyed as part of the review, 9.4 per cent had no music program. The report stated that this “was likely to be a conservative figure”. A 2003 survey by the Music Council of Australia found that 23 per cent of state schools (primary and secondary) had no music program.