

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

**Outcome**            2

#### **DEEWR Question No. EW832\_09**

Senator Mason provided in writing.

#### **Question**

*Quadrennial funding arrangements*

What is the Government's position in respect of requiring school music outcomes as part of the Quadrennial school funding negotiations with the States?

#### **Answer**

The Government supports music education in schools through a number of initiatives including the National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education; *Music. Count Us In*; support for the work of The Song Room; Musica Viva in Schools; the Australian Children's Music Foundation; and the Music Education Advisory Group. Funding of over \$3.5 million is being provided for these initiatives.

Under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) new framework for Commonwealth-State financial relations, Commonwealth prescription on specified service delivery is reduced. For schools, this framework will be put into effect through the National Education Agreement, which does not include any input controls, such as requiring school music participation, allowing education authorities the freedom to determine how best to address education needs and priorities.

The *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, agreed by all Australian Ministers for Education on 5 December 2008, includes the arts (performing and visual) as a key learning area. The Declaration includes a commitment by State, Territory and Commonwealth Governments to work together with all school sectors to develop world-class curriculum in Australia that enables every student to develop, among other things, knowledge in the arts.