**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON**
**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**
**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome** **2**

**DEEWR Question No**. **EW400_10**

Senator Payne provided in writing.

**Question**

According to the website, it states "The Government has committed $500,000 under the Program to fund initiatives that inspire and encourage young people to engage with government and community, and help them develop skills and connections with their communities".

How do you expect this program will allow people to engage with government, and does this include both government and opposition?

Can you outline how you expect this to occur?

**Answer**

The Youth Development and Support Program will fund organisations to support young people and provide opportunities for them to decide how to engage with government and their community, at whatever level they consider appropriate.

It is anticipated that organisations funded under the Youth Development and Support Program will provide small-scale, community based projects that develop young people through practical and innovative opportunities in their communities.

The aim of the Program is to fund organisations that support events or activities that:

- encourage the engagement and participation of young people in the wider community;
- build on the skill capacity of young people; and
- provide young people with development opportunities that are meaningful and worthwhile.

Projects may include (but are not limited to):

- empowering young people to develop their own solutions to overcome barriers they have identified themselves;
- young people demonstrating their entrepreneurial skills and initiative to promote the well-being of their communities;
- building on the capacity of families and the broader community to motivate and assist young people;
- projects that engage young people and improve their confidence, self-esteem and resilience;
- young people participating in the decision making process of organising an event.