SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009–10

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW534_10

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

School Truancy Pilot

How is the school truancy pilot in Logan in Queensland being rolled out and monitored?

Answer

The Australian Government is currently working with the Queensland Government to trial the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) across four suburbs (Woodridge, Kingston, Logan Central and Eagleby) in the Logan City area as well as the remote locations of Doomadgee and Mornington Island.

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, and the Premier of Queensland, the Hon Anna Bligh MP, announced the Queensland SEAM trial on 18 September 2009.

The attendance component of SEAM became available for use by Queensland Department of Education and Training (QLD DET) schools from the beginning of term 4 of 2009 (5 October). The attendance component is available to principals to aid their existing efforts to deal with cases of chronic absenteeism.

The enrolment component of the SEAM trial in Queensland will begin in the first school term of 2010 (commencing on Wednesday 27 January 2010).

Protocols and forms to support the trial were developed between the QLD DET, DEEWR and Centrelink. Governance arrangements were incorporated into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and QLD DET which will be finalised shortly.