

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

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

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW728_10

Senator Cash asked on 22 October 2009, EEWWR Hansard page 84.

Question

Trade Training Centres in Schools Program

Senator CASH—Would there be or has there been any situation whereby the next milestone has not been met but the funding has been released?

Mr De Silva—To my knowledge, no. What happens under the overarching funding agreement is that the funding either is paid to the state department, if it is a government school, or is paid to the BGA if it is an independent or Catholic school. Under the overarching funding agreement they are not allowed to release payment until the milestone has been reached.

Senator CASH—You said ‘to my knowledge’. Can I get you to take that on notice—to go and check to see whether or not there have been several instances where funding has been released and a milestone has not actually been reached? In terms of the projects that you mentioned, you will take on notice whether the milestones are being met?

Answer

Payment has been released to one school where a milestone had not been met. Birchip P-12 School, which was funded for \$223,528, was to receive 90% of this amount on 7 August 2009. However the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) released the full amount of funding. Following discussions with DEECD, the Commonwealth did not seek to initiate a refund on the basis that the project was progressing well. DEECD have now included additional checking processes for Trade Training Centre payments.