

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0535_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

SEAM

Please provide the number of people that have had their income support suspended as a result this program.

Answer

The School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) uses the possible suspension of income support payments to encourage parents to ensure that their children are enrolled in school and attending regularly. Social worker support is provided to help parents meet their obligations.

As at 1 October 2010 in the Northern Territory:

- 1758 children and 965 parents had ever been in scope for the enrolment component of the SEAM trial (living in the trial location, receiving income support, and had at least 14 per cent care of a child of compulsory school age).
- 98 per cent of children whose parents were in scope at 1 October for SEAM have been confirmed with Centrelink as enrolled at the beginning of the 2010 school year or when they moved to a SEAM trial site.
- Three parents' income support was suspended for not providing enrolment details for their child to Centrelink.
- As at 1 October, Centrelink had sent 209 attendance notices in the NT since SEAM began to parents whose children had consistent low attendance and the parent had not taken reasonable steps to increase the attendance of their child. The attendance notice gives parents a 28 day period to take reasonable steps to get their child to attend school.
- Six parents' income support was suspended at the end of the 28 day period for still failing to take reasonable steps to get their child to attend school on a regular basis.

As at 1 October 2010 in Queensland:

- 3219 children and 5636 parents had ever been in scope for the enrolment component of the SEAM trial (living in the trial location, receiving income support, and had at least 14 per cent care of a child of compulsory school age).
- 97 per cent of children whose parents were in scope at 1 October for SEAM

have been confirmed with Centrelink as enrolled at the beginning of the 2010 school year or when they moved to a SEAM trial site.

- 51 parents' income support had been suspended under SEAM for not providing enrolment details for their child to Centrelink.
- As at 1 October, Centrelink had sent 62 attendance notices in QLD since SEAM began to parents whose children had consistent low attendance and the parent had not taken reasonable steps to increase the attendance of their child. The attendance notice gives parents a 28 day period to take reasonable steps to get their child to attend school.
- One parent's income support had been suspended at the end of the 28 day period for still failing to take reasonable steps to get their child to attend school on a regular basis.