

**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.EW0627_11

Senator Mason asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 13.

Question

ABORIGINAL CONNECTIONS (CN325939)

Senator MASON—How feasible is the creation of a New South Wales Aboriginal builders association? What was the outcome?

Mr Griew—The project is not yet complete and the department is still waiting for a final report, which presumably will answer that question. I would be happy to take on notice the outcome.

Senator MASON—Is that all right?

Mr Griew—Yes. I understand there have been some organisational challenges in the organisation which may have delayed it slightly, but we will take on notice the final outcome.

Answer

The creation of an Aboriginal Builders Association came out of a meeting held in November 2008 between the Department and Aboriginal Connections Pty Ltd to increase the number of Indigenous Australians employed in the construction industry.

Aboriginal Connections Pty Ltd was funded under the Indigenous Employment Program to engage a consultant to undertake a feasibility study to look at setting up a New South Wales Aboriginal Builders Association.

The contract commenced on 25 September 2009. The department is still waiting to receive the final feasibility study and report.

The Department's New South Wales State Office has contacted the organisation by phone and letter requesting a final copy of the study and report. Until the final report is submitted, the department is unable to report on final outcomes of the project.