

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0596_12

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

University compacts

Can the Department provide a picture of how the interaction between DIISR and DEEWR works in relation to their respective compacts with universities? What level of cooperation, negotiation and coordination is there between the two Departments and what scope is there to further improve that interaction?

Answer

To help coordinate implementation of the higher education reforms, including Compacts, an Implementation Coordination Board (ICB) was established in 2009. Membership of the ICB consists of senior executives from both DEEWR and DIISR.

DIISR and DEEWR have worked closely in the development of Compacts. The departments worked together to develop the Compact template and together represented the Australian Government at Compact meetings with universities earlier this year. Since then, the two departments have liaised closely throughout the process of completing the Compacts. This has involved contact between the relevant sections of DIISR and DEEWR on a regular basis.