

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0603_12

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Online Diagnostics Tools Program

"1. Outline the methodology for funding the Online Diagnostics Tools Program 2. How will the funding be distributed? Will it be per capita, by student, by state, by school, etc or by any other model? 3. Specifically, is there additional weighting/criteria in funding formulae for regional schools, those teaching in regional classrooms or those students who reside in regional areas? "

Answer

The Online Diagnostic Tools (ODT) initiative is a commitment to deliver nationally available assessment and learning tools to help teachers and parents monitor student progress and provide targeted learning support. The ODT initiative has three elements:

- Online tools to help teachers measure student progress, provide diagnostic feedback and access learning resources that address each student's individual needs.
- A website to help parents obtain information about curriculum and assessment, follow their child's progress, and access appropriate resources to support learning at home.
- Trial online delivery of National Assessment Program tests in key areas of the curriculum.

A coordinated, staged approach will be used to implement the three elements of the ODT initiative. Some elements will be able to be progressed in advance of others, in particular, where there are opportunities to build on and leverage existing Australian and other government investments.

The implementation approach to each element is being developed in consultation with government and non-government education authorities and national agencies including the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Funding to deliver national assets under the initiative that are scalable and interoperable with government and non-government school authority ICT systems will be determined in accordance with Commonwealth grants and/or procurement

guidelines. For example, it is envisaged that the implementation approach to the teacher and parents' elements of the initiative may involve an approach to the market for the development of online tools and or resources. ACARA will receive funding for the development and trialling of the online delivery of National Assessment Program.

The initiative will support teachers, parents and government and non-government schools regardless of location. Funding will not be provided on a per capita basis or directly to states and territories.