

**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. EW0632\_12**

Senator Nash provided in writing.

**Question**

**Australian Youth Climate Coalition**

"The AYCC 2010 annual report details its activities which include: 1. 'Switch On' school programs to educate and get students active on climate change; 2. youth climate summits that 'were held in politically strategic areas on the three weekends leading up to the Federal Election'; 3. a campaign during the federal election that 'focused on three Senate races – Victoria, South Australia and the ACT – and five marginal lower-house seats, but also extended to other electorates. The multi-faceted campaign made use of a variety of tactics tailored to our different audiences, including Digital Doorknocking, banner drops, face-to-face voter engagement, and media and online campaigning'; 4. doorknocking and presence at polling booths on election day across Australia; and 5. attendance at Labor's election campaign launch • Can the dept explain how the AYCC spent the govt money it received from the Youth Development and Support program. Has there been any auditing of how the funds are spent? If so, what are the findings? • Can the dept/govt guarantee the federal funding was not spent by AYCC in assisting the Labor govt's election campaign noting its doorknocking and polling booth activities, attending Labor's campaign launch. • Can the dept/govt guarantee no Labor party, or related/associated material was distributed to AYCC members to hand out at polling booths. "

**Answer**

The Youth Development and Support Program, administered in the Office for Youth, provided a total of \$70,840 (GST inclusive) in funding to the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) in 2010-2011 for its Switched On Youth Leadership project.

The project aimed to empower young people with the tools they needed to engage in climate change solutions in schools, communities and the nation.

The project involved a number of activities including developing the Switched on Youth Online Hub, running a number of related training sessions and camps attended by over 400 young people across Australia and creating and launching the Switched On Youth Vision Film.

Strict accountability mechanisms were set out in the Funding Agreement concerning the use of funding, including specifying that the funds provided for the Switched On

Youth Leadership project were to be used solely for the activities associated with this project.

The Financial Reporting provisions in the Funding Agreement require that the AYCC provide an independent auditor's report which verifies that the Youth Development and Support Program funding was expended for the project in accordance with the Funding Agreement. The AYCC is due to submit this report in November 2011.