

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0522\_13**

**Senator Mason provided in writing.**

*“Refers to previous DEEWR Parliamentary Question No. 406”.*

**Question**

**MySchool website – total info costs**

What is the total cost to collect, analyse, collate and present the information on the My School website? Please include all costs including the cost of employing staff for data analysis, IT maintenance, and help desk staff.

**Answer**

ACARA has provided the following response.

ACARA’s budget for its National Data Collection and Reporting function, which includes *My School* and a range of other policy work and publications (such as the annual *National Report on Schooling in Australia*), is approximately \$6.66 million for 2012/2013.

This budget comprises:

1. staff and project costs for work on collection, analysis and reporting of school data, which includes policy work to:
  - enhance national consistency of data (including potential future data for publication on the *My School* website), and
  - improve reporting and related governance arrangements (through advisory and reference groups),
2. expenses related to communications and other support staff as well as associated on-costs.

Direct staff and project costs for data collection, analysis, collation and publication on *My School* for 2012/13 are set out in the following table. These figures are inclusive of financial data assurance, web-hosting and infrastructure, help desk support for principals, proportions of staff time in IT (web maintenance and development), and Reporting teams:

<b>Key cost area</b>	<b>Total anticipated costs for <i>My School</i> in 2012/2013</b>
<i>My School</i> project expenses (includes website hosting and infrastructure, IT contractors, travel, meeting costs, finance data assurance, website testing, casual staff for help desk support)	\$864,000
<i>My School</i> staff salaries and superannuation (includes an allocated proportion of Reporting and IT staff, including web developers and data analysts)	\$1,498,790
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,362,790<sup>1</sup></b>

ACARA's response to Parliamentary Question No. 406 in July 2011 cited a total of \$2.1 million which covered the first version of *My School* in 2010, including website development and maintenance, geocoding, security testing, legal services, focus groups and staffing costs. While ACARA's account codings have changed since 2010, the same types of expenses have been aggregated to provide the information above. However, some costs, such as focus groups, geocoding and legal services are no longer significant. Furthermore, since 2010, web development and maintenance have been brought in-house.

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<sup>1</sup> This total is inclusive of a broader range of costs (e.g. non-IT costs and IT costs) than ACARA's response to DEEWR Question No. EW0523\_13, i.e., that *My School* monthly operating costs total \$52,000. This figure only includes staff and project costs relating to IT hosting, maintenance and development).