

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0528_13

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0133_13.

Local Learning and Employment Networks

Question

In response to a question I asked at the May estimates in relation to Local Learning and Employment Networks, the Department responded that 'The Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) is a Victorian State Government initiative. The expenditure, breakdown, outcomes and means of measuring outcomes of projects in regional Victoria is a matter for the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.' Yet LLENs act as School Business Community Partnership Brokers in Victoria and are presumably funded a substantial amount of the \$13.9mn over four years for this program to do so. What are the 'enhancements' to existing LLEN services funded by the Federal government through the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program in Victoria? In what ways is the Department working with the Victorian LLENs? How will the Department be evaluating the success of the LLENs in delivering the program?

Answer

As part of its contribution to the Youth Attainment and Transitions (YAT) National Partnership (NP), the Australian Government provided funding of \$182.9 million over four years for the School Business Community Partnership Brokers (Partnership Brokers) program.

LLENs were originally established in Victoria in 2001/02 to coordinate and broker local partnerships to help improve education, training and employment options for young people, with a particular focus on assisting those at risk of making poor transitions. One of the goals of the YAT NP was to reduce duplication and overlap of youth and transition programs and to ensure that programs implemented under the YAT NP complemented existing state and territory policies and programs. In Victoria, it made sense to utilise the existing LLEN network to deliver the Partnership Brokers program.

The enhancements to existing LLEN services funded by the Commonwealth through the Partnership Brokers program include: the development of partnerships catering to a broader age range (10-19 year olds); expanding partnerships to include primary schools, parents and families; and an increased focus on partnerships that support career development.

The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) manages LLEN contracts and has responsibility for engaging with individual providers on issues associated with program delivery and provider performance.

DEEWR works with the LLENs primarily through the representative bodies that have been established. In 2010, DEEWR established Partnership Broker provider representative bodies for each state and territory to support the achievement of program outcomes and the objectives of the YAT NP. DEEWR and DEECD attend meetings of the Victorian Partnership Broker representative body to promote ongoing program improvement and explore opportunities for improved coordination between the LLENs and other Commonwealth and Victorian Government programs.

Two members of the Victorian Partnership Brokers representative body are also members of the National Partnership Brokers representative body which contains members from all states and territories and is a key point of connection between DEEWR and providers.

Under the YAT NP, the Victorian Government is required to provide DEEWR with an annual report on progress against NP targets and the status of various elements of the NP. This includes reporting on the performance of the Partnership Brokers in Victoria based on ongoing LLEN monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken by DEECD. The annual report from Victoria represents the primary source of information for DEEWR on the effectiveness of LLENs as Partnership Brokers.