

**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. EW0532_13

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

“Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0131_13”.

Question

National Standards Accreditation

I refer to QON EW0131_13 from last Estimates where only one part of the question was answered. In relation to school teacher bonuses: What feedback has the department received from representative bodies, including unions, on the affordability of the accreditation process? How has it acted on this feedback? Why did the department choose to take this approach? How much has the department allocated Victoria for the National Standards Accreditation Program? Is the Department continuing to work with the Victorian Government on implementing the program?

Answer

All Ministers for Education endorsed a national approach to the certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead teachers at the Standing Council of School Education and Early Childhood meeting of 20 April 2012. The Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework (the Framework), which supports the certification process, was endorsed at the meeting of 3 August 2012.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) consulted widely during development of both the certification process and the Framework. Key stakeholders involved in consultations include teacher employers, regulatory authorities, unions, national, state and territory peak bodies, and practicing teachers and school leaders. As part of this work, AITSL commissioned work by KPMG that identified national average costs of certification as being \$1440.

As part of the negotiation of the Rewards for Great Teachers National Partnership (NP), the Department also consulted with states and territories and non-government education authorities on the implementation of the Framework and the certification process. During these negotiations, the maximum cost of certification to be passed on to individual teachers was agreed to be \$1825 per applicant. This cost builds in appropriate indexation, and was set as an appropriate maximum cost to applicants, to apply for the life of the NP. Jurisdictions retain the right to determine the cost they pass on to applicants, up to that maximum, and the actual cost per applicant is likely to vary as a consequence. In determining any charge to applicants, jurisdictions are able to consider a range of factors, including affordability. Some jurisdictions may elect to provide the certification service at no charge to applicants.

Implementation of the certification process and the Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework is supported by the Rewards for Great Teachers National Partnership (NP). The Victorian Government would have received up to \$174 million in funding over the life of the NP, but has chosen not to participate. This included funding to support the implementation of the certification process and the Framework, as well as allocations for one-off teacher reward payments.