

**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. EW0694_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012, Hansard page 10

Question

Evaluation of the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative – public availability of report

Senator MASON: I go to 608481. It is the evaluation of the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative—its overall effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness. It is about for \$1.1 million.

Ms Potter: The initiative is about providing additional support for teachers in schools so they are better able to support the needs of students with disability. The initiative encompasses things like providing students with assistive technologies. For example, a hearing impaired student might be provided with equipment that provides text captions very soon after the teacher has spoken the words. Other things provided under the initiative are support for teachers in terms of developing curriculum. For example, if a teacher had a student with an intellectual disability, then they would be given support to develop a curriculum that is age appropriate.

Senator MASON: How do you measure or assess effectiveness, efficiency or appropriateness? How do you do that?

Ms Potter: The evaluation is primarily about sharing examples of good practice. Through the evaluation we are undertaking a range of case studies, and in addition to that there are stakeholder seminars and workshops. In a region where they are schools that are not directly participating in an initiative, we bring them together to try and share innovation and examples of good practice so that they can learn from—

Senator MASON: Development of best practice and innovation. Okay, I understand. That makes perfect sense. ***Is the evaluation for internal use or, again, will that be made publicly available?***

Ms Potter: I am not sure. I might need to take that on notice.

Senator MASON: Can you take that on notice for the committee?

Ms Potter: Sure.

Answer

The Final Report of the Evaluation of the More Support for Students with Disabilities (MSSD) initiative will be available by June 2014. Publication is a matter for Government.