

**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. EW0713_13

Senator Nash asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 60

Question

Visits to rural and regional schools

Senator NASH: I get that. Apart from Wollongong and Ballarat, which are not regional, and Camden as a very big stretch as part of the panel schools visits program, which is only 60 kilometres from the city of Sydney, there has been no specific on the ground visiting and discussion with rural and regional schools. Mr Cook: I am sorry but I will have to take that on notice. There have been some school visits from the minister, for example, which have been in regional locations in WA and other states as well. Senator NASH: I am really just trying to get a sense of what the communication has been. Mr Cook: I fully appreciate that. Senator NASH: If you would not mind taking on notice for me what has been done. Mr Cook: Absolutely.

Answer

- Between 20 February and 31 August 2012, 36 'Your School Our Future' forums were held in communities around Australia.
- Of these forums, there were 30 held in metropolitan areas and six held in regional areas.
- They were attended by more than 1200 people and viewed online by an audience of around 1500 people.
- Between 1 September and 14 November 2012, 21 'National Plan for School Improvement' forums were held.
- Of these forums, there were 14 held in metropolitan areas and seven held in regional areas.
- They were attended by over 900 people and viewed online by an audience of around 500 people.

- All 'Your School Our Future' and 'National Plan for School Improvement' forums were hosted by the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP; the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth; or Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins, Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations.