

**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. EW0728\_13**

**Senator Wright asked on 18 October 2012, Hansard page 85**

**Question**

**School music programs**

Senator WRIGHT: Where would I find out more information about take-up and reach? Could I ask you to take that on notice for me and give me some information about those four programs? I am interested in the number of schools that benefit from them, how the programs work on the ground and the funding for the last four years, just to get a sense of what the landscape is like. Dr Atkins: Funding I can give you now, if you would like, or I can take the lot on notice. Senator WRIGHT: I will take it as a bundle.

**Answer**

The Government has allocated funding of \$11.3 million between 2007 and 2015 to support the music education initiatives outlined below.

**The Song Room**

- The Song Room's 'Bridging Equity in Education through the Arts' Project supports schools to deliver quality arts education programs (including music), in disadvantaged schools with no specialist arts teacher in order to improve children's learning and social and emotional wellbeing outcomes. It also aims to support the quality implementation of the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts* through assisting schools to deliver quality arts programs.
- The Australian Government has committed \$3.2 million from June 2008 to June 2015. Under the current funding agreement with The Song Room, funding of \$450,000 per annum from 2012–13 to 2014–15 will assist the organisation to achieve a number of outcomes including delivering its arts education school workshop programs in approximately 18 schools from across Australia each year.
- Further information about The Song Room is available at: [www.songroom.org.au](http://www.songroom.org.au).

**Music: Count Us In**

- The project, conducted by the Music Council of Australia, aims to improve student learning in music by encouraging participation and engagement in school music education, including professional support for a program of classroom music classes leading up to participation in the culminating event held in November at which schools around Australia sing an especially written song at the same time.
- The Australian Government has committed a total of \$4.1 million from 2007 to 2015 to support Music: Count Us In. Under the current funding agreement,

funding of \$480,000 per annum from 2012 to 2015 supports a music education program which includes students working with professional musicians to write the project song, professional development and support for classroom teachers and conducting a public culminating event which is live-streamed through the internet.

- In 2012 over 2000 schools registered to participate in Music: Count Us In. School communities, including students, teachers and families, came together on 1 November 2012 to sing the same especially written song, at the same time.
- Further information about Music: Count Us In is available at: [www.musiccountusin.org.au](http://www.musiccountusin.org.au)

#### Musica Viva in Schools

- Musica Viva in Schools aims to increase access by regional schools to music education and associated professional learning, to improve student learning outcomes in music and to provide greater access to high quality music resources.
- The Australian Government has committed a total of \$1.4 million from 2006–07 to 2012–13. Under the current funding agreement from June 2010 to May 2013, \$350,000 will allow Musica Viva Australia to provide subsidised access to its music education program, Live Performance Plus, to 250 primary schools across the country and significantly expand its online tools and facilities through its project, 'Taking Music into the 21st Century Classroom'.
- Further information about Musica Viva in Schools is available at: [www.musicaviva.com.au/education/mvis](http://www.musicaviva.com.au/education/mvis).

#### Australian Children's Music Foundation

- The Music Education Initiatives project aims to improve the equity of access, participation and engagement in music education by all Australian students, especially those students in disadvantaged schools and juvenile justice centres.
- The Australian Government has committed a total of \$2.6 million from 2006–07 to June 2015. Under the current funding agreement, \$420,000 per annum from 2012–13 to 2014–15 supports delivery of ongoing music education programs in seven juvenile justice centres and twelve disadvantaged schools without a specialist music teacher.
- Funding also supports the Australian Children's Music Foundation to conduct the National Songwriting Competition. In 2012, 795 entries were received from around Australia.
- Further information about the Australian Children's Music Foundation and its programs is available at: [www.acmf.com.au](http://www.acmf.com.au).

#### Australian Curriculum: The Arts

- The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority is developing the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts*. The Authority released the draft arts curriculum for public consultation from 27 August to 25 September 2012. The feedback received will inform the final version of the *Australian Curriculum: The Arts*.