

**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. EW0738_13

Senator Nash asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 93

Senate report addressing barriers to education for rural and regional students

Question

Senator NASH: At the end of 2009 there was a Senate report addressing barriers to education for rural and regional students. That was at the end of 2009. I did not get an opportunity to ask this at budget estimates. We did not get the budget response until March 2012. I am very happy for you to take this on notice if you do not have the answer now, but I am trying to get an understanding of why an eight-page report took over two years to provide to the committee. Ms Paul: We would have to take that on notice.

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) took the lead on developing the Australian Government Response to the Senate Inquiry into Rural and Regional Access to Secondary and Tertiary Education Opportunities, in consultation with a number of relevant departments in particular the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The timing of the Australian Government Response was a decision of the Government.