

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on School Funding
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding

Barham High School is a small, rural High School located on the border of Victoria. Our school population is currently 187 students. We have a staff to student ratio of approximately 1:10. Our school's population has been in steady decline over the past 6 years due to the ongoing impact of drought and the closure of the timber industry. Some of the students travel long distances to get to school and we are geographically isolated in NSW (10.5 hours' drive from Sydney).

Heating and cooling of classrooms, staffrooms and common areas

Installation and maintenance of a computer lab

Maintenance/replacement computers in the Library

Establishing a wireless network throughout all classrooms, the front office and common areas

Bank of iPods/iPads for use in the classrooms

Employ an IT professional for laptop/computer/tablet support

More Aide time for students who require learning support

Employment of a full time counsellor (2 days a fortnight currently)

Establishment of a permanent multi-purpose space that is able to be used effectively for Drama classes, performances and presentations, meetings and sport

Replace aging equipment in Science, TAS, Visual Arts, IT and PDHPE. Acquisition of new, high tech specialist equipment

Replace photocopier for staff

High quality printers, colour printers for staff and students

Maintain an annual whole school dramatic performance

Dedicated spaces for specialist senior classes equipped with high quality equipment, computer and internet access for senior students in a dedicated, supervised space

Bring in more specialist presenters for curriculum and welfare purposes

Support for the delivery of VET courses to improve students' post school prospects
" clerical assistance for the ever-increasing amount of record keeping requirements, relief to allow teachers to monitor mandatory work placement

Increase of Aide time

More time allocated to STLA co-ordinator/Learning Support Team to be able to more effectively target at risk students, students with a disability and Indigenous students

Acquiring more ESL resources and computerised ESL resources/software and hardware for use in class

More resources into Careers education, school to work initiatives

Tuition outside of school and increased aide time targeted for identified Aboriginal students by an appropriate person

Establishment of a homework support and study skill centre

Reduce travel time by employing experts to come and present at Barham

More funds to be able to travel to Sydney for appropriate courses

Money to be able to train staff members as experts in certain fields of priority to the school (Literacy and Numeracy, quality assessment, welfare and discipline)

Being in a rural and isolated area means that we are disadvantaged and do not have the same level of access to support, experts and organisations as those who live in the city. We would benefit immensely from this funding and would begin to close the gap of disadvantage. Our Indigenous students would benefit from more one to one attention and targeting on a school and regional level. The majority of

the funding happens in the last two years which will make the most significant impact on our school context. It is essential to ensure the success of our students.

Submitted on behalf of Barham High School

Monday 3 March 2014