

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. CA0003_13

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Boarding Facilities program

When was practical completion of the boarding facility in Wadeye achieved? How many students can be accommodated at the Wadeye boarding facility? Are any students currently accommodated in the Wadeye boarding facility and, if not, why not? Who is or will be operating the Wadeye boarding facility and have you finalised and signed an agreement with that party? Can you provide this Committee with a copy of that agreement? Where will the other two Northern Territory Indigenous boarding facilities be located and when are those facilities due to be up and running?

Answer

- Practical completion of the Wadeye boarding facility was achieved on 9 July 2012.
- The boarding facility will accommodate up to 40 students.
- The boarding facility is to be operated by Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL).
- It is anticipated that up to 15 students will be in residence by the end of the 2012 school year, with an expanded student intake, up to the potential maximum capacity of 40 residents, by the middle of 2013.
- An agreement for the first year's operation of the facility was executed with AHL on 9 June 2012. AHL is currently undertaking the furnishing and final set up of the facility, including finalising staffing and recruitment.
- The funding agreement with AHL for the operation of the Wadeye facility is commercial in confidence and cannot be made available at this time.
- The second boarding facility will be located in Garrthalala, East Arnhem Land. Negotiations are continuing with the NT Government around essential infrastructure and school upgrades as part of the project. The NT Government has indicated its support for the site.
- The site for a third facility is the subject of ongoing discussions with local communities.