

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. CA0004_13

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

CTG Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Programs

Is the CTG Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Programs for Underachieving Indigenous Students a national program? Has an evaluation of the program been done? How many students is it currently assisting? How many outside the NT? What was the planned duration of the program, before it was cut? What will happen to those students when the program stops? Are similar programs being funded as part of Stronger Futures?

Answer

Is the CTG Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Programs for Underachieving Indigenous Students a national program?

The 2008-09 Budget measure *Closing the Gap – expansion of intensive literacy and numeracy programs for underachieving Indigenous students* (CTG-EILN) and *individual learning plans* provided funds of \$56.4 m over four years, and supported a wide range of discrete, time-limited projects around Australia aimed at improving the quality of schooling provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Has an evaluation of the program been done?

The Australian Council for Educational Research has been engaged to conduct an evaluation of the CTG – EILN projects. Work on the evaluation is currently underway.

How many students is it currently assisting? How many outside the NT?

As many of the projects focus on professional learning for teachers, it is not possible to provide data on the number of students that the budget measure is assisting.

What was the planned duration of the program, before it was cut?

Funding for the program was provided in the 2008-09 budget, and the school activities under the project contracts have always been scheduled to end in December 2012.

What will happen to those students when the program stops?

Students will continue to benefit from the initiative through access to teachers who have been up-skilled in literacy and numeracy pedagogy for Indigenous students and through access to resources and materials that have been developed under the program. Managers of successful projects will also be encouraged to make a submission to the National Literacy and Numeracy Evidence Base, *Teach, Learn Share*.

The *Teach, Learn, Share* database is a national resource where educators and education systems can share their most effective approaches to literacy and numeracy teaching and learning in Australia. The database includes descriptions of

successful literacy and numeracy initiatives being delivered in a diverse range of school settings and provides links to relevant research in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Are similar programs being funded as part of Stronger Futures?

Under the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package, the Australian Government will invest a further \$583 million on education related measures over 10 years.

The package includes the continuation of the Quality Teaching Initiative, which funds –among other things – professional development for teachers working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, as well as support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wishing to pursue careers in teaching.