

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 426

Topic: Weipa Hostel

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scullion asked:

Could you tell me how many residents are currently at the 120 bed student hostel in Weipa? What are the operating costs for the hostel in calendar year 2013? Do you have any plans to increase the number of students residing at the hostel? Have any approaches been made to the Department of Human Services regarding extending ABSTUDY 'living away from home' allowances to students from Naparum to board at the Weipa Hostel? If yes, why?

Answer:

The operator of the Western Cape Residential Campus, the Queensland Government Department of Education and Training, advises that 34 students resided at the facility at the end of term two.

The operating costs incurred in 2013 by the Queensland Department of Education and Training incurred as the operator of the Hostel are not known.

The strategy of the Queensland Department of Education and Training to increase the number of students residing at the hostel includes open days, billeting programs, year 6/7 boarding introduction stays, general promotion and advertising via newsletters, promotional materials, visits to communities across the region and event attendance.

The Queensland Department of Education and Training has been working with the Commonwealth Department of Human Services to inform Napranum parents about current ABSTUDY policy and eligibility to attend boarding facilities.

In 2012 advice was sought from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations about access to the ABSTUDY living away from allowance, to address any financial barriers that may prevent Napranum students from attending Weipa Hostel.