

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0366_11

Senator Williams asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 44.

Question

Disadvantaged Schools Program

Dr Bruniges—You would have to look at the individual case, I think. There would be programs that run within jurisdictions, such as New South Wales which has a disadvantaged schools program, so those categories of schools may be in receipt of that funding. We would really need to look at the individual school to see the sources of funding and some of those things.

Senator WILLIAMS—Can you do that? Can you look at the individual school?

Dr Bruniges—Yes.

Senator WILLIAMS—Could you take on notice three schools for me, please?

Dr Bruniges—Yes.

Senator MASON—The information is provided by the states; that is the evidence.

Senator WILLIAMS—The schools I am very interested in are RedRange, Mingoola, Bonshaw and GilgaiPublic Schools because these schools I think really fit the criteria, and they have been missing out. We hear of other schools.....

Answer

The Commonwealth has not rejected any schools that have been nominated by states and territories to participate in the National Partnership for Low Socio-economic Status School Communities (Low SES National Partnership).

New South Wales applied the national methodology and state-based criteria of disadvantage to identify schools for participation in the National Partnership.

Red Range, Mingoola, Bonshaw and Gilgai Public Schools did not qualify for participation in the National Partnership on the basis of the selection methodology agreed by the Council of Australian Governments using the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage.

The schools also did not meet the New South Wales state-based criteria of disadvantage used to select additional disadvantaged schools under the National Partnership, which were:

- Any new or continuing PriorityActionSchool not already included in the National Partnership. The Priority Action Schools program is a program for disadvantaged schools run by the NSW Department of Education and Training.
- The next 30 most disadvantaged schools identified by the Priority Action Schools process, but which were not included in the Priority Action Schools program.

- Schools not covered by the above criteria with a greater than 25 percent enrolment of Aboriginal students (averaged over a three year period).

The New South Wales Priority Schools Program supports government schools serving the highest densities of low socio-economic status families in New South Wales. These programs provide resources to improve the literacy and numeracy achievements and engagement of students from low socio-economic status backgrounds. GilgaiPublic School, BonshawPublic School, RedRangePublic School and MingoalaPublic School are receiving funding under this program.

GilgaiPublic School also received funding under the New South Wales Norta Norta program which provides targeted support to Aboriginal students to accelerate progress in the key areas of literacy and numeracy.