

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0227_12

Senator Scullion provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Boarding Students

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is asked to provide a breakdown of payments made on behalf of indigenous boarding students, on a per capita basis (for eligible students), under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000*, Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA) for eligible non-remote non-government boarding schools, to Kormilda College and Marrara Christian School in the Northern Territory for the funding years 2008, 2009, 2010 and expected 2011.

A detailed breakdown of the calculation method of these payments is requested, including the schedule of how the payment is planned to be paid in 2011.

Answer

Per capita payments made on behalf of Indigenous students for the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 (estimated) are set out below:

Kormilda College

	<i>Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000</i>	<i>Schools Assistance Act 2008</i>	
	IETA per capita grants \$ (per capita)	General Recurrent Grants * \$ (per capita)	Indigenous Supplementary Assistance ** \$ (per capita)
2008	1819 (SRA junior secondary) 2001 (SRA senior secondary) 4365 (ITAS RIS) 1715 (ITAS Yr 9-12) 1667 (ITAS ICT)	6279 (secondary)	-
2009	Per capita funding ceased in 2008	6644 (secondary)	2381 (secondary)
2010	Per capita funding ceased in 2008	7110 (secondary)	2548 (secondary)
Estimated 2011	Per capita funding ceased in 2008	7537 (secondary)	2701 (secondary)

Marrara Christian School ***

	<i>Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000</i>	<i>Schools Assistance Act 2008</i>	
	IETA per capita grants \$ (per capita)	General Recurrent Grants * \$ (per capita)	Indigenous Supplementary Assistance ** \$ (per capita)
2008	1213 (SRA primary) 1819 (SRA junior secondary) 343 (ITAS Yr 9-12)	4151 (primary) 5786 (secondary)	-
2009	Per capita funding ceased in 2008	4325 (primary) 6122 (secondary)	1668 (primary) 2381 (secondary)
2010	Per capita funding ceased in 2008	4681 (primary) 6551 (secondary)	1805 (primary) 2548 (secondary)
Estimated 2011	Per capita funding ceased in 2008	4961 (primary) 6945 (secondary)	1913 (primary) 2701 (secondary)

* General Recurrent Grants are provided in respect of all eligible primary and secondary students.

** Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA) was introduced in 2009 and is provided in respect of all eligible primary and secondary Indigenous students regardless of boarding status.

*** Marrara Christian School is a systemic school belonging to the Northern Territory Christian Schools Association. The funding amounts listed for the school are the amounts that the school attracts to the school system and may be different from the amounts allocated to the school by the system authority.

Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA)

ISA is provided at a per capita rate based on the level of schooling (primary or secondary) and whether the school is located in a remote/very remote area or a non-remote area. The relevant per capita rates are then multiplied by the appropriate primary or secondary Indigenous enrolments at the school. This calculation is represented by the following equation:

$$ISA_Y = (\text{Primary } ISA_Y \times \text{Primary Indigenous Enrolments}_Y) + (\text{Secondary } ISA_Y \times \text{Secondary Indigenous Enrolments}_Y)$$

where: ISA = Appropriate Remote or Non-Remote Indigenous Supplementary Assistance Per Capita Rate
Y = Relevant program year

The payment schedule for ISA funding in 2011 is set out below:

Payment	During the month of	Proportion of entitlement paid	Enrolments
First advance	January	50% of estimated entitlement	Previous year's Census
Second advance	July	75% of estimated entitlement less payments made	Previous year's Census
Adjustment	October	100% of actual entitlement less payments made	Current year's Census

In addition, the Government's election commitment to provide the higher (remote) rate of ISA to non-remote boarding schools with more than 50 Indigenous boarding students from remote communities will result in additional funding of \$2537 (primary) and \$2435 (secondary) for each of these students.

Eligibility for this additional assistance will be determined using data from the Schools Census in August and the residential addresses of Indigenous boarding students enrolled at the school in the relevant program year. The Department has written to all non-remote non-government boarding schools advising them of this initiative and the process that will be followed to determine eligibility for the additional funding. The Department is unable to provide information on the additional (if any) ISA funding amounts for Kormilda College and Marrara Christian School until this process has been completed.

Non-remote boarding schools that are eligible to receive the higher (remote/very remote) rate of ISA will be paid the difference between the remote/very remote rate and the non-remote rate in full in October 2011.