

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0067\_14**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme - Limited Program Schools**

**Question**

1. Can you please clarify the breakdown of responsibility of Federal Government and the NSW State Government in relation to the bypassing of small rural and remote high schools? a. Who is responsible for determining which schools meet the criteria for Limited Program Schools? b. Does Federal Government have any powers to intervene in the lists of Limited Program Schools? c. Can you explain the criteria used to assess if a school meets the Limited Program Schools criteria? d. Can you advise of concessions that may apply to students which would allow a local school to be bypassed?

**Answer**

*1. Can you please clarify the breakdown of responsibility of Federal Government and the NSW State Government in relation to the bypassing of small rural and remote high schools?*

The decision to place a NSW school on the limited program school list (or bypass list) is made by the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities. The list is provided to both the Department of Social Services (Centrelink) and the Department of Education to assist in the management of the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme.

*a. Who is responsible for determining which schools meet the criteria for Limited Program Schools?*

This decision is made by the relevant education department in the state or territory.

*b. Does Federal Government have any powers to intervene in the lists of Limited Program Schools?*

No. This is a state and territory responsibility.

*c. Can you explain the criteria used to assess if a school meets the Limited Program Schools criteria?*

This decision is made by the relevant education department in the state or territory.

*d. Can you advise of concessions that may apply to students which would allow a local school to be bypassed?*

The bypassing of a school is a matter for the relevant state or territory education department. Some of the reasons for bypassing can be because the year of schooling is not being delivered at the nearest appropriate government school and sometimes bypassing is approved because curriculum and teaching requirements are specifically geared towards the needs of particular students.