

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0489\_11**

**Senator Fifield provided in writing.**

**Question**

***BER FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY (SPECIAL SCHOOLS)***

Is it correct that the main criterion for the allocation of BER funds to schools was based on student numbers? i.e. the more enrolled students, the more funding the school received?

**Answer**

Yes. Funding allocations to each state, territory and Block Grant Authorities were calculated on the basis of the number of full-time equivalent enrolments (FTE) from the census data collected by the Department as of February 2009.

For the largest component of the BER program, Primary Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (P21), funding was provided on the basis of a primary school's total FTE student enrolments as determined by the February census data collection. For a K-12 school, only primary school FTE was counted. For a special school, both the number of FTE enrolments from the primary and secondary schools components were counted to calculate the indicative funding cap.