

MOSEN: Background Notes

1. The Measure of Socio-Educational Need emerged out of discussions between the AEU, DECD and three principal associations on the need to review the Index of Economic Disadvantage.
2. The IoED had become problematic. It was based on four data sets (parental economic resources, parental education and occupation, Aboriginality and student mobility). The first two were derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics census collection districts (CCDs - an averaging of data for around 220 families in a particular locality); that is, they were not data necessarily directly reflective of the parental circumstances of a school's enrolled students, and they were only updated some time after the four yearly Census exercise. The other two sets were taken from school data. Each of the four sets had a weighting. The IoED data was expressed as one of seven Categories. For various reasons, the IoED had not been updated for some time and was actually ten years out of date when the review began.
3. Over the years, the IoED had been used as a reference point for some HR matters including recruitment and selection and principal classifications. If the MOSEN replaced the IoED then a separate Index of Complexity would have to be developed just for those HR matters related to the IoED.
4. ICSEA values used on the My School website were considered as a replacement for the IoED; however they contained a large number of variables, whereas all advice to the review group was that parental occupation and education – and particularly the mother's educational level – provided the highest correlation with a definition of socio economic and educational needs.
5. The review group agreed that a new model, the MOSEN, would replace the IoED. That suggestion was, however, put on hold after the joint AEU-DECD SCFM committee, of which the review group was a sub-committee, went into recess.
6. However the model had been developed and it had the following features:
 - It only employs parental education level and occupation derived from school data. It is an accurate reflection of actual enrolments and can be updated annually
 - It replaces the seven categories with a sliding scale so as to more accurately disperse funding to need (avoiding some of the big variations between the IoED categories)
 - For schools with less than 20 enrolments or with more than 30% of the mother's education details missing, a value based on ABS CCD is calculated. There were 82 schools in the latter group and 445 for which direct school data was used in the MOSEN calculation.
7. Given the advantages of the MOSEN over the IoED, the AEU and DECD agreed that it should be used as the basis for allocation of the Gonski funds.
8. There remains some potential for inaccuracy for the 82 schools which have their MOSEN calculated from ABS CCDs. For example, a significant number of low SES

students might be enrolled from Census collection areas which are, on average, of a higher SES level.

Mike
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