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Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on School Funding
PO Box 6100
PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600

29 May 2014

Dear Mr Palethorpe

RE: NORTHERN TERRITORY SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL

I write in response to your correspondence of 16 May 2014 requesting information to assist the Senate Select Committee on School Funding gain an understanding of school funding models across all jurisdictions.

The Northern Territory is currently developing a new school funding model, intended to be implemented from 2015. This will be a needs-based resourcing model that will provide a one-line budget for school staffing and operations. Funding will be differentiated by stage of schooling, school size and the individual profile of each student at the school which will include consideration of geolocation and demographic data.

The new funding model will replace existing arrangements which involve a centrally managed staffing formula and operational grants to schools. The staffing formula allocates according to stage of schooling and school size with additional staff provided through a range of specific programs to address student needs, for example english as a second language learning or attendance support. School operational grants are currently allocated as a one line budget, calculated using a range of data including stage of schooling, school size, special needs, geolocation and in some cases historical cost.

The Northern Territory's new funding arrangements will provide greater transparency and equity in the distribution of funding to schools and will enable them greater authority over the way resources are utilised to deliver improved outcomes for their students.

Yours sincerely

Ken Davies
Chief Executive