

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. CA0040_13

Senator Scullion provided in writing.

Question

Kormilda College

Is it true that commitment to Kormilda College in Darwin is carrying a shortfall of \$500,000 a year since 2009? Has the school reduced the number of indigenous students enrolled in 2013 due to its financial circumstances? Provide a breakdown of Commonwealth funding for Kormilda each year since 2008. Is it true that because of its financial situation at the college they have terminated a number of staff? Is it also true that a union is taking action against Kormilda College because of this?

Answer

The following information is provided to answer the above questions.

- Q1. Is it true that commitment to Kormilda College in Darwin is carrying a shortfall of \$500,000 a year since 2009?
- A1. There have been no funding cuts to Kormilda College and the College continues to receive the maximum amount of Australian Government recurrent grant funding to which it is entitled.
- Q2. Has the school reduced the number of students enrolled in 2013 due to its financial circumstances?
- A2. The Department is aware that student enrolments have declined since 2009, however cannot comment as to whether this was in any way due to their financial circumstances.
- Q3. Provide a breakdown of Commonwealth funding for Kormilda each year since 2008.
- A3. Commonwealth funding for Kormilda College is provided on the *My School* website. The latest available data from the *My School* website shows that total gross income per student at the College rose from \$19 154 in 2010 to \$19 784 in 2011.

Included in the Commonwealth funding reported on *My School* is funding the school receives relating to its Indigenous students. The following table provides this funding on a per Indigenous student basis.

Per Indigenous Student Amount – Kormilda	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Indigenous Education Program Funding (2008 only)	4,376				
Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA)	-	2,381	2,548	2,672	2,781
Indigenous Funding Guarantee	-	1,631	998	-	-
Increased ISA for Non-remote Boarding Schools^	-	-	-	2,552	2,659

* To be finalised once funds are acquitted in 2013.

^ This element is calculated on the number of Indigenous Boarding Students from Remote Indigenous Communities.

In addition to the funding the College receives from the Australian Government, the College also received funding from the Northern Territory Government and private sources.

The College also attracted approximately \$4.7 million in ABSTUDY payments in 2011. Pending final adjustments the amount of ABSTUDY payments in 2012 was approximately \$4.56 million.

- Q4. Is it true that because of its financial situation at the college they have terminated a number of staff?
- A4. The Department is unable to comment on operational decisions of the school including staffing arrangements.
- Q5. Is it also true that a union is taking action against Kormilda College because of this?
- A5. The Department is unaware of any union action being taken against Kormilda College.