

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 16, 3 March 2016**

**Ref No: SQ16-000262**

**OUTCOME:** 10 - Sport and Recreation

**Topic:** Sporting Schools – Demographics

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Peris, Nova

**Question:**

- a) How many students with a disability are participating in the Sporting Schools Program? Does the Department seek to make the Sporting Schools Program accessible to students with a disability, and if so, how?
- b) How many students from a low socioeconomic background are participating in the Sporting Schools Program?
- c) What is the gender breakdown of participants in the Sporting Schools Program, and what explains any disparity?
- d) How many students participating in the Program are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background?
- e) Can the Department provide the average and distribution of Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage scores for schools participating in the program?

**Answer:**

- a) The Sporting Schools Program reported 22,694 students with a disability involved within the program at the end of Semester 2, 2015.

The Sporting Schools Program does seek to make the program accessible to students with a disability by working with the National Sporting Organisation (NSO) to align their sporting curriculum and programs to be accessible to all students.

Schools that cater for students with a disability are eligible to receive a Special Circumstances stipend of \$500 (per school term) as part of their Programme Delivery Grant. This additional amount is designed to assist schools with any higher costs that they may incur in supporting students with a disability to participate in the Sporting Schools program.

- b) Currently, the Sporting Schools Program does not capture this information as part of the acquittal process.
- c) Currently, the Sporting Schools Program does not capture this information as part of the acquittal process, however it is something that could be considered in future reporting.
- d) The Sporting Schools Program reported 33,349 students who are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background involved within the program at the end of Semester 2, 2015.
- e) The Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) was created by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority specifically to enable fair comparisons of National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy test achievement by students in schools across Australia. The Australian Sports Commission currently does not keep a record of this index for registered and/or funded schools in the Sporting Schools program, and as such, is unable to report on the average or distribution ICSEA scores.