

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 441

**Topic:** Weipa Hostel

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Scullion** asked:

Please provide copies of demographic study or studies undertaken that support the decision to increase the number of beds being provided at the Weipa hostel from the original 40 to 120. Provide the dates when each report was requested and the dates when each report was completed.

**Answer:**

A key consideration in identification of suitable locations for new boarding facilities in 2007 was to provide opportunities for partnerships with mining companies and locate boarding facilities near secondary schools to allow children from remote communities to access secondary education. In Queensland the 120 bed facility in Weipa was agreed due to the employment and training opportunities through Rio Tinto's Weipa operations, opportunities for employment and training for tourism in the region and the high level of services provided in the Weipa township.

A demographic study was undertaken by Deloitte on behalf of the Queensland Government, which was completed on 5 June 2008. The report highlights the demand for secondary school education across Cape York and notes:

“A plan to provide 120 places, as indicated in interviews with stakeholders, in the short term can be progressed with an appropriate confidence level.”

As the report was commissioned by the Queensland Government, a request for a copy will need to be directed to the Queensland government.